

# MICHIGAN FARMER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, the Mechanic Arts, and Rural and Domestic Affairs.

NEW

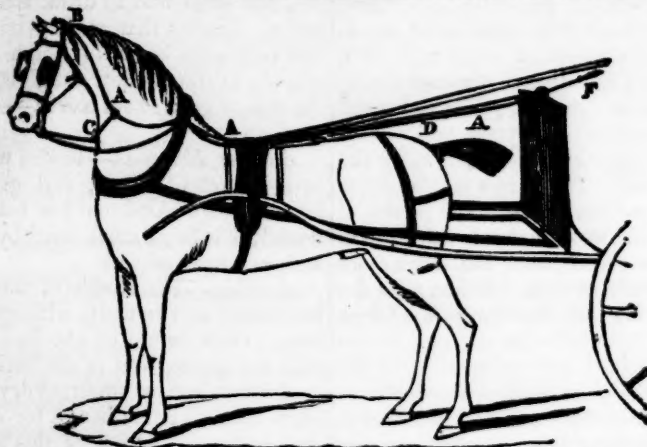
Perfect Agriculture is the foundation of all Trade and Industry.—Liebig.

SERIES.

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NO. 2.



**CHECK REIN.**—The above cut is designed to represent a check rein, used for the purpose of stopping a horse in the act of running away. It will be readily seen, that the effect is produced by the pressure of the strap which connects the two reins, upon the windpipe.

## Management of Horses.

We have no domestic animal among us that costs us so much—that will do a greater variety of work, or that is so much abused as the horse. Like his master, the horse is complicated in his structure, and liable to a great many diseases, and as he is capable of being made to exert all his powers of body in the efforts of speed or severe labor nine tenths of them are cut off in the prime of life. And yet by care and attention, by kind and humane treatment in working and feeding, he can be made to endure a great many years, active and strong. Mr. Pell, of New York, has given some excellent rules for the management of horses, which were published in the transactions of the New York Agricultural Society. Among the good ideas which he there advanced, he observes: feed them in winter on a variety of food, such as oats ground and whole, bran, strip stuff, beans, peas, turnips, carrots, potatoes, and parsnips, occasionally steamed separately and together. In summer, keep them always confined in airy stables, and feed them on clover, bruised grains, green cornstalks, cider pomace, oil cake, hay, &c. Be particular to give them three fourths of a lb. of salt per week; occasionally two ounces of sulphur, and frequently two ounces of wood ashes.

By good keep and judicious management a pair of horses, perfectly sound when young, will last, and labor constantly, twenty-five years, and to the end will retain their spirits. I have a pair of bay horses, he observes, on my farm that are now twenty

years old, during which time they have never been at pasture, and have worked daily; they have never been incapacitated for work by lameness, or disease of any kind, and have always been perfectly healthy. He also adds that he has another pair of sorrels that are eighteen years old, which labor daily, and will do as much work as any pair of six years old.

The above statements of Mr. Pell are worth listening to, and his advice should be followed. Much loss would be prevented and much suffering to a faithful and useful animal be warded off, while the long continued powers for labor would amply reward the extra care and kindness thus bestowed, even if the virtue of mercy to those brutes entrusted to our protection were not taken into account.—*Maine Farmer.*

## Choosing a Horse.

There is much pleasure and profit in the service of a good horse; but very little of either in a bad one. There are many mean horses that make a good appearance when taken from the hands of a jockey. In purchasing a horse then, trust not to the seller's words: let your own judgement, or that of a friend, be chiefly relied on. See that he has good fore feet and joints, and that he stands well on his legs. See that his fore teeth shut even; for many horses have the under jaw the shortest: these will grow poor at grass. See that his hair is short and fine for this denotes a good horse. Observe his eyes, that they are clear and free from blemish;—that he is not moon eyed or white eyed; for such are apt to start in the night. A large, hazel colored eye is the best.

Look at his knee; see that the hair or skin is not broke, for this denotes a stumbler. Take care that his wind is good; for a trial of this let him be fed on good hay for twenty-four hours, take him to water

and let him drink his fill, placing him with his head the lowest; if then he will breathe free there is no danger. See that his countenance is bright and cheerful; this is an excellent mirror to discover his goodness in. If his nostrils are broad, it is a sign that he is well winded; narrow nostrils the contrary.

See that his spirits are good, but that he is gentle and easily governed; not inclined to start. In travelling mind that he lifts his feet neither too high or too low; that he does not interfere or overreach, and that he carries his hind legs the widest. See that he is well ribbed back, and not high boned. The size may be determined by the purchaser. Age from five to ten is the best. There are many tricks practised by jockies to make horses appear young; all I would say is, that horses' teeth when young, are wide, white and even; the inside of their mouths are fleshy, and their lips hard and firm. On the contrary, the mouth of an old horse is lean above and below; the lips are soft and easily turned up; their teeth grow longer, narrower and of a yellow color.—*Cole's American Veterinarian.*

**Blind Bridles.**—"Yes, use your thinking powers, friends; they were given you to use, and not abuse. Blind bridles! truly named, surely. Art never invented a more fatal thing to the eyes of horses than when she devised this plan of depriving the horse of what nature intended he should enjoy. But, says one, how are blinders injurious to the horse? Because they gather dirt and heat around the eyes. Dirt irritates the eye, and heat produces inflammation. These bridles so entammel the eyes of the horse that he is compelled to be constantly straining them, to see his way. The over exertion of the nerve brings on disease. Eyes were not made in vain. Had they been needless, the Creator would not have located them in the head. They were placed on the corner of the head that he might have the advantage of looking in different directions. Men, in the abundance of their wisdom, concluded the horse had too much sight, and they wished to curtail it; hence the origin of blind bridles. Think of this seriously, and you will abandon the use of so destructive an appendage. Remember, that blind bridles and diseased eyes are inseparably connected. Custom hoodwinks the senses of men as much as blind bridles do the vision of horses."—[J. MADDOCK, Farrier.]—*Id.*

Do not wait for extraordinary opportunities for good actions, but make use of common situations.

**Science of Farmers.**

BY LEVI BARTLETT.

There are four other elementary bodies that enter into the growth and composition of plants, and it is from these that the greater part or bulk of plants and animals are composed. These four substances are oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon.—The three first of these are known to us only in a gaseous form. Carbon is pure charcoal, and when burned, it combines with the oxygen of the air in certain and exact proportions forming carbonic acid. These four are termed by chemists *organic* bodies, and they are susceptible among themselves (and with the inorganic constituents of plants,) of forming an infinity of chemical combinations, and yielding an endless variety of products.

The atmosphere we breathe, and in which plants grow and live, is composed principally of a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen gases, in the proportion, very nearly, of 21 of the former to 79 of the latter. It also contains as a constituent necessary to the very existence of vegetable life, a small percentage of carbonic acid, on an average of about one twenty-five hundredth part, and however incredible it may seem to those unacquainted with agricultural chemistry, yet it is a fact, that from this source is derived about one-half of the solid substance of all plants that grow upon the face of the whole globe.

At the first view it would seem impossible that this apparently small amount of carbonic acid diffused through the atmosphere could supply to growing plants the carbon found in their solid parts, as it amounts to from 40 to 50 per cent. of all trees, plants and vegetables, in fact all the parts of plants which are cultivated for food of man or animals, and unquestionably most of this carbon is derived directly from the air, by the agency of the leaves of plants, although there can be no doubt but a small portion of it is taken up by the roots mixed with water, and some of the inorganic matters that are in solution, such as potash, lime, &c.

When we reflect that the atmosphere not only entirely surrounds the earth, but extends in every direction about 45 miles, "and if the whole acid were collected in a stratum or bed occupying the lower part of the atmosphere, such a stratum would have the thickness of about thirteen feet," and this would be spread over the entire waters of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, the deserts of sand, the frozen regions of the poles, and in fact over every part and place of the globe, and by the wisdom of the Great Contriver, this gas is in innumerable ways, returned to the air as fast as abstracted by growing plants—here, then, our wonder ceases.

We know, if we take a given quantity, by weight, of well-seasoned wood, and distil it in a close vessel, or burn it in heaps covered over so as to exclude the free access of air, wood charcoal is left behind. When this process is well performed, the charcoal will

weigh from 40 to 50 per cent. as much as the wood did.\* The charcoal consists of carbon, with a slight admixture only of earthy matter and saline matter which remains behind when the coal or carbon is burned in the open air. When the charcoal or carbon is burned in the open air, it combines with the oxygen of the air to keep up the combustion, and the whole of the coal enters into a chemical union with the oxygen, and forms carbonic acid, or in other words carbonic acid consists of oxygen, with a definite or fixed quantity of charcoal or carbon dissolved in it. This gas is composed of two proportions of oxygen and one of carbon. In this state it is taken in by the leaves of plants. The leaves of plants are their lungs, and they possess the power of absorbing from the air, carbonic acid, and in day light it is decomposed, but much more rapidly in clear sun light. When thus decomposed in the leaf, the oxygen is set free, and is again restored to the atmosphere, the carbon is retained and mingled with the *true sap* of the plant, and in obedience to those mysterious laws of chemical combination, is made to form a moiety of the endless variety of wood, fruits, seeds, &c., &c., which are the results of vegetable life.

It may seem a mystery, how the leaf of a plant can take from the air the carbonic acid, when in such apparent small quantity, and separate the carbon from its oxygen. We grant it is a mystery; but then we know for a certainty the fact of the leaves of plants possessing this power of absorption and decomposition; it is the way the growth of a plant has been provided for; the Creator has so willed it.

Plants take from the atmosphere by their leaves, carbonic acid, a deleterious gas, and decompose it and restore to it the oxygen; that is taken into the lungs of animals, combines with the carbon of the food, and by the process of respiration is given off to the atmosphere in the form of carbonic acid, the food of plants.

It is sometimes said, that politicians and gamblers play into each other's hands for their own private good. Animals and plants perform a more honorable operation; they play into each other's mouths for the general good.

\* The moisture, or water in wood, or other vegetable productions, is not the solid part: potatoes when sliced and dried, lose 70 to 80 per cent. of water.

**Cough in Horses.**—In all disorders accompanied by a cough, the true cause should be ascertained. Sometimes the cough is only a consequence of a chronic or seated disease, as is the case in heaves, &c. At other times it is symptomatic of recent inflammation in the throat or lungs.—Sometimes it is brought on by horse-ail, which is an inflammation of the mucous membranes of the head and glands about the throat. We have found salt, given freely, together with an occasional dose of saltpetre, to be an excellent remedy in cases where a horse has had the horse-ail, and

the cough holds on after the original disease seems to have gone. For a dry, husky cough, not attended with the heaves, green or laxative food, such as roots, or mashes of scalded bran, in which is put the pulverised root of elecampane and lovage, has been found beneficial. If there should be found indications of heaves, put a spoonful of ginger, once per day, in his provender, and allow him to drink freely of lime water. Horses that are kept on musty hay will very soon begin to cough. The best remedy for musty hay cough is, to change the diet to good sweet clover.—*Maine Farmer.*

**Another Remedy.**—Human urine put into a bucket of water, and given to the horse, or sprinkled on his fodder. This remedy has been much used by some, and with excellent success.

**Another.**—The boughs of the cedar have been used as a remedy, with complete success. They should be cut fine, and mixed with the grain given to the horse.

**Another.**—Arse-smart, as dry fodder, has often been given to horses for cough, with good success. A dose of this fodder occasionally, in the winter, is good for the health of the horse; and it should be saved for that purpose.

**Another.**—We once cured a horse of an obstinate cough, on which a number of medicines were tried without effect, by feeding him exclusively on sheep's orts. They have peculiar medicinal properties, which they imbibe from the dung and urine.

**Another.**—Boil a small quantity of flax seed; mix it in a mash of scalded bran, adding a few ounces of coarse sugar, or some molasses or honey.

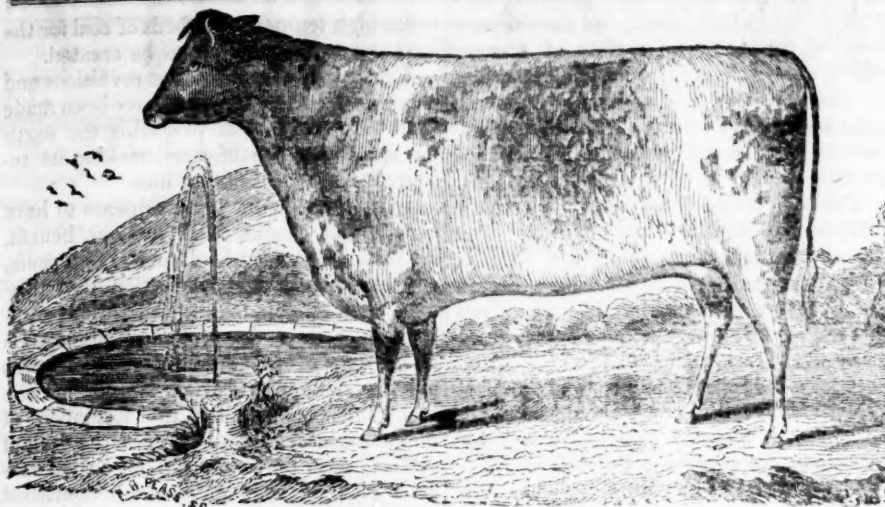
**Marks of a Good Working Ox.**—Mr. Asa G. Sheldon, of Wilmington, who has great experience in cattle, particularly in working oxen, and is regarded as the best authority, gives the following:

"Long head, broad and oval between the eyes; the eye full, keen and pleasant. Such marks denote ability to receive instruction and a readiness to obey. The short faced ox starts quick at the whip, and soon forgets it. The black-eyed ox is inclined to run away. An ox with very large horns near the head is apt to be lazy, and he cannot endure heat well.

"Forward legs straight; toes straight forward; hoof broad, not piked; the distance short between the ankle and knee.—These properties enable an ox to travel on pavements and hard ground. If the ox toes out, the strain comes on the inside claw, and when travelling on a hard road, he will be lame at the joint between the hoof and the hair. When the toes turn out the knees bend in. An ox with crooked knees is apt to become lame by holding heavy loads down hill.

"Breast full; straight on the back; round ribs, projecting out as wide as the hip bones. These are indications of strength and a good constitution."





### The Short Horns, or Durhams

Are decidedly the most showy among the cattle species. They are of all colors between a full, deep red, and a pure creamy white; but generally have both intermixed in larger or smaller patches, or intimately blended in a beautiful roan.—Black, brown, or brindled, are colors not recognised among pure-bred Short Horns. Their form is well spread, symmetrical, and imposing, and capable of sustaining a large weight of valuable carcass. The horn was originally branching and turned upward, but now frequently has a downward tendency, with the tips pointing towards each other. They are light, and comparatively short; clear, highly polished, and waxy.—The head is finely formed, with a longer face, but not so fine a muzzle as the Devon. The neck is delicately formed without dewlap, the brisket projecting; and the great depth and width of the chest giving short, well-spread fore legs. The crops are good; back and loin broad and flat; ribs projecting; deep flank and twist; tail well set up, strong at the roots and tapering. They have a thick covering of soft hair, and are mellow to the touch, technically termed, *handling well*. They mature early and rapidly for the quantity of food consumed, yielding largely of good beef with little offal. As a breed, they are excellent milkers; though some families of the Short Horns surpass others in this quality. They are inferior to the Devons, in their value as working oxen, and in the richness of their milk.

The Short Horns are assigned a high antiquity, by the oldest breeders in the counties of Durham and Yorkshire, England, the place of their origin, and for a long time, of their almost exclusive breeding.—From the marked and decided improvement which they stamp upon other animals, they are evidently an ancient breed, though much the juniors of the Devon and Hereford. Their highly artificial style, form, and character, are unquestionably the work of deeply studied and long continued art; and to the same degree that they have been moulded in unresisting compliance with the dictation of their intelligent breed-

ers, have they departed from that light and more agile form of the Devon, which conclusively and beyond the possibility of contradiction, marks the more primitive race.

*Agriculture the leading Interest.*—It is supposed that three-fourths of the population of the country are employed in agriculture; the other quarter being divided among all other employments and professions. Besides, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant and the professional man are all mainly dependent upon the farmers for patronage and support. When the farmers as a class are prosperous, all the others participate in their prosperity. From this it follows, that whatever benefits the agricultural class, directly benefits three-fourths of the people, and indirectly benefits the other fourth.

Surely, then, the farmers have a right to demand of government the means to sustain their agricultural societies, and to collect and disseminate important information relative to their calling. Let the light of science and education be brought to the aid of agriculture. Let our resources be developed, and the skill and industry of the husbandman be directed into their proper channels, and results would soon be attained in which not only the farmer would rejoice, but the whole community with him.—*Maine Farmer*.

*Age of Sheep Deteriorates their Wool.*—It has been observed, by the most experienced wool growers, that the older the sheep the less fine the wool. The wool is said to be of the best quality when the sheep is from two to five years of age—after that it deteriorates.

Mr. Blanchard, of New York, states that he has known flocks that yielded wool that sorted number one when young, when older drop down to number two or three.

Those who wish to grow the first grade of wool, should keep young sheep. Some go so far as not to use a buck after he is four years old.

A bright plowshare is the cheapest commodity ever used by a farmer.—*Cobbett*.

*Keep your Stables Clean.*—As our stock all stand on plank floors, early in the morning we first take up that part of the litter which is not much soiled, with a fork, and place it in the back part of the stalls, to dry during the day. We then clean out the manure, and put it on the dung heap. If litter be plenty, and it is an object to make as much manure as possible, then we should let all the litter go with the manure, and add plenty of fresh every night for the stock to lie on. And while on this subject, we wish to observe, that if the litter be straw or coarse hay, it ought to pass thro' a straw cutter before using it. This makes it much easier to fork the manure in the heap, as it is not then bound together with long straws. After removing the manure, we give the stables a slight sprinkling of plaster of Paris, or charcoal dust. Either of these substances absorb all unpleasant effluvia, sweetens the atmosphere, and in the course of the season, adds considerably to the value of the manure heap.

Many farmers let their stock stand on the ground. If the soil be dry, there is no objection to this. If not cleaned out till spring, the manure should be spread evenly over the surface of the stable, every morning, a dusting of plaster or charcoal dust then put upon it, and fresh litter added before night. Each animal will thus make a large quantity of valuable manure during the season. One great advantage follows this system, and that is, the salts are not exposed to be washed out of the manure by rain, nor volatilized by the sun, as when exposed to the open air in the barnyard and other places.—*Amer. Agriculturist*.

*Keep your Stables Warm.*—In a brief article, p. 20, of this number, we speak of the necessity of proper ventilation of stables. This can be easily done, and yet keep them sufficiently warm for the stock. Due warmth is essential to the growth and fattening of all animals, and the production of wool in sheep. No farmer can expect much of either during the winter months, if he let his stock be out and exposed to the weather, or if his stables are not properly boarded up, the windows set in, and the doors hung. Next to plenty of good food, water, and air, is good shelter.—*Ib*.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### Receipts.

*Cure for Warts on any part of the body.*

—Make a strong solution of corrosive sublimate, wet the wart three or four times a day, never fails of curing.

### To prevent Disease.

Keep the stomach well cleansed; be regular in your diet; cleanse the skin often with clean cold water, or with the addition of a little white lye and salt, or with soap suds; rub the surface after washing, with a coarse cloth until warm. If you cannot use cold water, use warm; keep your head cool and your feet warm and dry, and you will have but little disease, and no doctor's bills to pay. W. W. W.

### Origin of the Soil.

We have received, in pamphlet form, the Address of Prof. Norton, of Yale College, delivered on the occasion of the great fair at Buffalo, in September last. It affords a rich repast. The following is an extract:

The farmer of the present day, who desires to improve, and to thoroughly understand his profession, has a wide range open before him. All of the natural sciences offer advantageous fields for exploration. In the air, the earth, the water, in the vegetable and animal worlds, the mind once aroused, finds sufficient space for its utmost energies.

Each one of the subjects that I have indicated, affords ample scope for a host of observers during a long series of years; even with the great progress already made in research, each possesses within itself a multitude of unresolved problems waiting for solution, and harmonious laws which we only need to understand, to be impressed with a still greater admiration than that we now feel when we are only able to see their incomprehensible workings.

These assertions it is my purpose to illustrate to-day, by some observations upon one of the above topics.

I have selected the soil—not that it affords a broader field than some of the others, but it seems naturally to come first when we speak of improvement, and because it is the foundation from which all progress must be made. I shall confine myself to one part of this great subject—the structure, the physical properties, and the chemical composition of the soil. This may seem to some a narrow limit, but there will be no difficulty in proving it far too broad for the limits of a single address.

The soils which now exist upon the face of our earth, have been produced by a variety of agencies; the chief of these have been the gradual decomposition and crumbling down of the rocks themselves, and deposition by water. We know that the external outline of the earth has undergone most extensive changes. In some places it has sunk, in others risen. Sometimes it is evident from the present conformation of surface, that violent currents of water have swept across strata of rocks, wearing away the uppermost, and transporting their ruins to fill up depressions elsewhere. We often find strata upheaved and dislocated by action from below, and in many cases see the inferior rock presenting itself on the surface, having burst upwards in a state of fusion, in despite of every obstacle. Scarcely a region can be found which does not present striking evidence of the throes, convulsions, and changes, which took place before man became an inhabitant of this planet. It is for geologists to decide, if they can, how long a time was occupied in these changes; suffice it for our present purpose that they have taken place, and that they seem to have been especially ordered for our benefit. Had the stratum last deposited or formed, continued unbroken and unchanged

around the whole earth, we should have none of the beautiful variety of scenery which now greets our eyes on every side; no alternation of hill and dale, mountain plain and valley, with the attendant variations of climate and production, which now so often remind us of perfection itself.

The soil would have been identical in composition over vast districts, if not over the whole earth, being all formed from at least allied species of rocks. Now as few rocks contain all the material for a good soil, this soil would doubtless have been imperfectly fitted to sustain most of the plants necessary for our existence and comfort. When exhausted too, we should have had no stores of mineral substances in forms convenient for supplying the deficiency.

The convulsions of nature, however, have been directed for our good, and they seem to have continued in a very long series before this earth was deemed fit for the abode of man.

Geological researches have shown us the existence of races of animals, that lived and died and succeeded each other in countless myriads, through long and indefinite periods of time. We find them all changed to stone, entombed in rocky sepulchres. Sometimes the appearance of the rock denotes that it was deposited from a calm and quiet sea, where the animals died naturally, and in consequence seldom remain whole or unharmed. In other cases life and its functions seem to have been suspended by some sudden change, so that we find large fish with smaller ones in their mouth but half swallowed, and others with their thorny fins yet erect in the attitude of fear or rage with which they received their death shock, when that sudden mysterious destruction came upon them. In some of these periods also, upon that part of the land elevated above the water, there flourished a vegetation of exceeding luxuriance.

Internal fires have borne a decided part in all these changes, if they have not been the chief agents. It is well known that even now, as we go towards the centre of the earth, for each foot in depth the heat increases, indicating interior combustion still active. In the earlier history of our globe these fires must have burst forth many times. The masses of melted matter may be plainly seen, penetrating the stratified rocks, filling cracks in their substance, flowing over their surfaces, or upheaving and contorting them.

But while some rocks were thrust upward, others sank into corresponding depressions; and vast currents of water produced by these convulsions, seas and lakes turned out of their beds, seem to have swept over the world; completing the scene of confusion by tearing away and grinding down strata, bearing the materials to other regions, there to form beds of sand, clay or gravel, according to the nature of the original rock. The vegetation at such periods, seems to have been carried into hollows and buried deep by succeeding or continuing shocks, to form under enormous pressure

and a high temperature, beds of coal for the advantage of beings yet to be created.

Thus all these tremendous revulsions and changes of surface, seem to have been made with the great end of preparing the earth for the habitation of man, making its resources more available to him.

In such a view the globe appears to have been a vast manufactory for our benefit. Its beds of limestone, of marl, of gypsum, are dispersed in every direction, that they may be accessible to all; the various composition of its rocks, produces soils capable of growing every necessary plant; its ores are abundant in proportion as they are the more indispensable for the formation of necessary implements; while on the walls of our coal mines, we may still trace the forms of a gigantic vegetation which flourished long ages ago, and was then stored for our use.

It is not to be supposed that the present surface assumed its present shape, in every place at the same time. Some regions, without doubt became tranquil long before others, but all must at first have presented a strange naked aspect. There was of course no soil, except in the track of some former current where matter in suspension had been deposited. This appearance of absolute ruggedness and sterility, could not have continued long unaltered. Atmospheric influences, heat and cold, moisture and dryness, worked surely then as now, and after a time the most enduring rocks began to crumble. As the decomposing fragments became minute, little patches of soil were formed here and there. If it were on the side of a hill the fine particles had a tendency to descend into the hollows, being washed down by the rain. In ordinary circumstances therefore, soil must have first appeared in the valleys, and in every little hollow of the hill sides. The durability of each particular species of rock, had of course much influence upon the readiness with which the soil formed. Thus most of the slates, many limestones and sand stones, soften and decay readily when exposed to the air; on these were to be seen soils at a comparatively early period, and such soils soon became deep. But the granites, and some of the harder limestones, remain almost unchanged for a long period of years, and we see even at this day that the soils upon those formations are thin, while at frequent intervals project masses of the naked rock, yet defying the influence of time.

### Common Errors in School Architecture.

Under this head it will be sufficient to enumerate the principal features of school houses as they are.

They are almost universally badly located, exposed to the noise, dust and danger of the highway, unattractive, if not positively repulsive, in their external and internal appearance, and built at the least possible expense of material and labor.

They are too small. There is no separate entry for boys and girls appropriately



fitted up; no sufficient space for the convenient seating and necessary movements of the scholars; no platform, desk, nor recitation room for the teacher.

They are badly lighted. The windows are inserted on three or four sides of the room, without blinds or curtains to prevent the inconvenience and danger from cross lights, and the excess of light falling directly on the eyes or reflected from the book, and the distracting influence of passing objects and events out of doors.

They are not properly ventilated. The purity of the atmosphere is not preserved by providing for the escape of such portions of the air as have become offensive and poisonous by the process of breathing, and by the matter which is constantly escaping from the lungs in vapor, and from the surface of the body in insensible perspiration.

They are imperfectly warmed. The rush of cold air through cracks and defects in the doors, windows, floor, and plastering is not guarded against. The air which is heated is already impure from having been breathed, and more so by noxious gasses arising from the burning of floating particles of vegetable and animal matter coming in contact with the hot iron. The heat is not equally diffused, so that one portion of the school room is frequently overheated while another portion, especially the floor, is too cold.

They are not furnished with seats and desks, properly made and adjusted to each other, and arranged in such a manner as to promote the comfort and convenience of the scholars, and the easy supervision on the part of the teacher. The seats are too high and too long, with no suitable support for the back, and especially for the younger children. The desks are too high for the seats, and are either attached to the wall on three sides of the room, so that the faces of the scholars are turned from the teacher, and a portion of them at least are tempted constantly to look out at the windows—or the seats are attached to the wall on opposite sides, and the scholars sit facing each other. The aisles are not so arranged that each scholar can go to and from his seat, change his position, have access to his books, attend to his own business, be seen and approached by the teacher, without incommoding any other.

They are not provided with blackboards, maps, clock, thermometer, and other apparatus, and fixtures, which are indispensable, to a well-regulated and well-instructed school.

They are deficient in all of those in and out-door arrangements which help to promote habits of order and neatness, and cultivate delicacy of manners and refinement of feeling. There are no verdure, trees, shrubbery, nor flowers for the eye; no scrapers and mats for the feet; no hooks and shelves for cloaks and hats; no well, no sink, basin nor towels to secure cleanliness; and no places of retirement for children of either sex, when performing the most private offices of nature.—*Amer. Agriculturist.*

### The Life, Privileges and Prejudices of the Farmer.

BY THOMAS BARLOW.

There is scarcely a branch of education that would not be useful to the farmer, either as a source of pleasure or profit. A knowledge of chemistry is all important as people begin to concede. Botany would be useful and pleasing. For a farmer to be capable of analyzing the flowers of his field as he sees them around him in his labors and travels over his farm the season through, in all their beauty and variety, would add interest and enjoyment to his life.

Then he would see the richness, use and beauty of those splendid ornaments of his hills and meadows, over which he now walks with indifference, or beholds them only as noxious weeds, offensive to his eye. With a knowledge of mineralogy, he would take pleasure in examining every thing forming his hills, rocks and soils, and in his soil. So with geology, and every branch of natural history. With a knowledge of entomology, every worm or insect now loathsome to his sight, would be interesting, even though it be injurious and predatory in its habits. The transformations from the larva to the perfect insect, which he would constantly behold in infinite variety, would teach him the great wisdom which pervades the living world as established by the Great Author of all things. Ornithology would awaken him to the habits, language and songs of the birds which render his arbor, orchard and woodlands vocal with music, which otherwise he will see or listen to with indifference, and scarcely know or care when they come to cheer the land, or when they go to visit, cheer and enliven other climes.

Without a mind to see and appreciate all these things, our lands might as well be under a monotony of eternal barrenness, so far as ornament and taste are concerned. Variety is the great source of pleasure of this world. And in order that we might enjoy the world in which we are placed, boundless variety prevails, and the farmer has the best possible opportunity of realizing the enjoyment of it, if he would awaken his senses to what is around him.

"This is all true," says the farmer, "but we have no time to study all these things, or if we understood them, we have no time to give to them." This is a great mistake. If one-half the time which is spent idly, should be given to study, a knowledge of all these branches would soon and easily be attained.

The habits of the farmer cause him to move in one continuous round of toil, to the almost entire neglect of reading and study, so much so that it is believed by many, that his life is one of drudgery and slavery. This continuous toil, as I said, causes the neglect of books, and the neglect of books, and study superinduces greater disadvantages in labor. If the laboring man performed his tasks with the advantages of an

enlightened mind, he would save much, both of his time and strength.

Why should the life of the farmer be one of perpetual hard labor? There is no necessity for it. That he must be industrious, I will concede, and so should all men be, but he should not be a slave to the denial of all privileges of an intellectual nature. He can graduate his hands so as to take more or less time to himself weekly, for reading and study, and thereby cultivate a taste for books, the arts and sciences, and break the monotony of heavy toil, by a change that will greatly sweeten life, by adding to his knowledge and enriching his mind. A brief time daily at morning, noon or evening, devoted to books, will soon render a man familiar with almost any branch of education. It is truly surprising to see how many branches a man can learn, if he will give attention to it. If one fourth part of the time which our farmers and mechanics spend idly, should be devoted to study, the improvement consequent upon it would surprise those who would pursue the course for a short time.

Our country, our government, our institutions, are all calculated for the recognition of our laboring classes as the privileged ones of the people. They are the source of our wealth and strength. Let them become educated, and our country may then be envied above all others on earth. We may then be truly called a great, a powerful, and enlightened nation. But whilst the thousands and tens of thousands tillers of our soil remain ignorant or stand indifferent to intellectual and literary improvement, and numbers will set perching upon the reputation of their calling, and the agriculture of our country will be kept far in the background of the standing and prosperity it should realize in the industrial pursuits of nations. An observer of the changes that come over the moral, social and literary conditions of a people, when he casts an eye over the world at this time, beholds the yeomanry of this country far in advance of that of any other country in intelligence and moral standing; and not only this, but he can also see a great change in gradual progress of advancement in a social and literary point of view. We must not expect too rapid a progress. We are a great people, and the popular mind is like a mighty sea, which is not to be moved too hastily, but may by gentle, steady influences be turned into a current to run as wisdom and prudence shall dictate, and honor and prosperity shall require. We have cause to feel a pride in our country and her institutions, which no other country can feel; and this because our country is free, and its safety, wealth and prosperity are in the hands of the common and laboring classes of the people, rather than in those of an aristocratical few.—*Esto perpetua.*

Says an author, "The surest evidence of superior talent is, that it forces itself into notice in spite of adverse circumstances."

**HORTICULTURAL.**

J. C. HOLMES, EDITOR OF THIS DEPARTMENT.

**To the Readers of the Farmer.**

Having consented to take charge of the Horticultural Department of the Michigan Farmer, I shall endeavor to make the space allotted to me, as interesting, and useful to its patrons, as the time, which I may be able to snatch from other arduous avocations, will permit. Thinking as we do, that every farmer should become interested in Horticulture, we shall strive to make every reader of this paper a Horticulturist. By this, we mean, not a theorist merely; but a cultivator of fruits, flowers, and vegetables.

We think there is not a farmer in this state, who has not yet planted his orchard, but wishes, as he sits by his fire, these long winter evenings, reading the Michigan Farmer, or some other farmer's journal, that he had a good orchard on his premises, so that he could now be, not only counting the profits derived from it, but at the same time tickling his own palate with the fruits of his labors.

With regard to flowers, we love them; we love to cultivate them; we love to see others cultivate them, not only for the pleasure to be derived from beholding their variegated tints. The moral influence which this employment has upon the mind of the cultivator, is almost always manifest in his intercourse with his fellow men. For these reasons among others, we will endeavor to assist those, whose taste leads them to the cultivation of flowers, ornamental trees and shrubbery; also to create a taste where none now exists. The kitchen garden will also receive much of our attention in due time.

J. C. HOLMES.

Detroit, January 5th, 1849.

**Asparagus.**

ANSWER TO OUR CORRESPONDENT J. S.

Asparagus seed may be planted in drills in the fall as soon as ripe, or early in the spring. If the ground is rich, light, well cultivated, and kept free from weeds, the plants will be large enough to transplant, when they are one year old.

Having the plants one or two years old, select a spot where the soil is dry, light, rich, and well exposed to the sun. Lay out the bed the size you wish; spread upon it a quantity of well rotted manure, sufficient to cover it to the depth of three or four inches. Trench this in, at least twelve or fifteen inches deep. This is done

by standing upon the bed and opening a trench, say a spade and a half deep, and one foot wide, across the head of the bed. Throw the dung which is immediately under your feet, into the trench, spreading it evenly; then take the earth upon which you stand, and throw it upon the manure. By this process the first trench is filled, and a new one opened, and the bed is raised six or eight inches. Having trenched the whole bed in this manner, spread a coat of well rotted manure upon it and dig it in, incorporating it well with the soil; this done, level the bed and rake it smooth. Now strain a line along the bed six inches from the edge, and open a trench about six inches deep. Place the plants along the back of the trench, ten or twelve inches apart in the row, and the crowns three or four inches below the surface. Finish the first row before commencing the second. Let the rows be eighteen to twenty inches apart.

Asparagus should not be cut in less than three years from the time of transplanting, but in four years it will bear extensive cutting. After planting the first row, it is well to place a board on the bed to walk upon, in order not to tread the earth while planting the succeeding rows.

**Pomological Reform.**

In my last communication upon this subject, I spoke of the efforts which Horticultural Societies, and the North American Pomological Convention, are now making to reduce our catalogue of fruits; and to fix upon a uniform pomological nomenclature throughout North America.

A committee will soon be appointed in each state, and in East and West Canada, whose duty it shall be, to observe particularly the different varieties of fruits grown in their respective states, how cultivated, with what success, &c. Also to endeavor to correct the fruit nomenclature of each state, and report to the convention at its next session, which will be held in 1849, in the town or city, in which the New York State Agricultural Fair may be held; to convene its sessions the first day succeeding the closing of the Fair.

In this way we may gather up a vast amount of knowledge, concerning the fruits of our country, diseases incident to them, and in what locations, and in what soils the different varieties of fruits succeed best, &c., which cannot well be obtained in any other way.

With regard to the fruit nomenclature of

Michigan, we think it is rather in a confused state, which might, with some observation and labor on the part of fruit growers, be in a measure corrected. We sometimes hear persons say, "what care we for the name of a fruit, if we know it to be good, that is all we care about it."

I would answer: for the same reasons you wish to know the name of a person, particularly if you know him to be good, and you are transacting business of importance with him. There may be two men who are brothers, the one a very good man, while the other is a very bad man. You may, by confounding names, accidentally make the acquaintance of the bad man, and after a while, find you have caught a tartar; while, if you had paid a little more attention to names, you would have made your acquaintance with the right person, and have been benefitted thereby.

By confounding names of fruits, people sometimes get the very article, which of all others, they do not want.

I have noticed many instances of loss of time, labor, and money, arising from a want of correct names.

I have before me a letter, from which, it being to the point, I will make a short extract. Although this was intended as a private letter, I think my venerable correspondent will pardon me, for making a portion of it public. He says, "I began to cultivate fruit as early as any one in this vicinity, more than twenty years ago, and in my missionary perambulations, I obtained the scions of such fruit, as the good people saw fit to recommend, and in some cases I suppose they recommended it as the best, because they had none better. Some that I have grafted, I have found not to be the best, and I have grafted the second and some even the third time, before I could obtain as choice fruit as I desired." Here is a loss of time, and labor, and undoubtedly some little uneasiness was experienced in the mind of our friend, upon finding, after waiting three or four years for these trees to bear, that the fruit which he supposed to be of first rate quality, was not worth cultivating. Had a correct nomenclature at that time prevailed, our friend might have had a good orchard at an early day, without experiencing so much anxiety and disappointment.

A short time since, a gentleman told me he had not the apple known as the Detroit, in his collection, but having heard it highly recommended, he wished to procure a tree



of it. I asked him, if he had the Black Apple; "Oh, yes," he says, "I have several trees of it." I told him, the only difference between them was, that in this vicinity the same apple was known as the Black, which in other states was known as the Detroit.

We might cite many instances, where confusion has occurred by not giving sufficient attention to collecting scions, but as short articles are more extensively read than long ones, I will close by saying, now is the time for cutting scions for winter or spring use. When cutting scions, be careful to cut good varieties, and label one kind before you cut the second, for it is an easy matter to take a bundle of scions in each hand, and forgetting which is which, mark them wrong.

Detroit, January 6th, 1849.

### County Agricultural and Horticultural Societies.

We are happy to see our friends making a move towards organizing County Agricultural and Horticultural Societies; let us have a sprinkling of them throughout the state. The sooner this is done, the sooner we shall have the pleasure of announcing a movement towards the organization of a Michigan State Agricultural Society. Will not friend G....., of Raisin, set the ball in motion in his neighborhood? We think he is just the person to undertake it. Get half a dozen of your neighbors together some evening, adopt a constitution and bye-laws, adjourn for one week, in the mean time, get as many signatures as possible to your constitution. At the second meeting, you will have a goodly number present, when you may elect your officers, and go ahead.

### Root Grafting, Slow and Fast Growers, &c.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—You notice that "you learned a fact of Mr. Cook of Jackson in regard to root grafting, which would seem to militate against the practice as an exceptionable one." I wish to remark upon this *fact*, that my experience shows that trees raised from buds are also liable to crack open. We had a lot of apple trees 3 years old from the bud a few years since, a large portion of which cracked open six or eight inches long, and so much as to prevent their sale. They recovered from it however mostly in one year. I attributed this to their rapid growth, and not to the fact of their being budded. We frequently see them cracked open in our nursery; but it is generally those that have grown rapidly, and been checked by frosts.

The wood in such cases, should be covered by a thin coat of wax, and the tree will entirely recover from it in one or two years. I cannot conceive that there is much difference, in the worth of a tree raised from a scion or a bud, or grafted into a piece of a root or a whole root, but it is quite important to know that the tree is thrifty and true to its name. There is a great difference in the growth in different varieties of apples, with the same treatment. Most of the Pippins, the Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin, Pomme De Neige &c. have grown in our nursery at least one fourth larger, side by side, than the Swaar, Spitzenburgh, and the true Roxbury or Boston Russet, is slower than either. I think most of the long keeping varieties grow slower than early apples. The Roxbury Russet is one of the best varieties to keep that is raised in this climate. It is not ripe till May, and will keep until apples come again. If there is any thing in the supposition that fruit from a cultivated tree partakes of the qualities of the original stock, then root grafting is far preferable, for if properly performed, most of the scions will take root, thereby dispensing with the influence of the natural root or stock. The roots of fruit trees seem to have the power of penetrating very hard soils, and I think in Mr. C's. nursery, it could be ascertained that water rises nearer the surface on his porous soil than his clay, and that the roots in his clay soil are in search of water.

Respectfully yours, A. C. H.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### Grafting.

To the Editor of the Farmer.

It has occurred to me that much time might be saved by many settlers in our young state, in procuring a supply of fruit till the young orchards are sufficiently advanced to furnish it "in the regular way." In every part of our state the crab-apple and the thorn tree grow spontaneously and generally in great abundance, and any man of common sense, with a sharp knife can learn to graft in *five minutes*.

Quinces grow luxuriantly on the crab or thorn apple stock.

Where the tree stands in an enclosure and can be protected from cattle, cut it square off, at a convenient distance for grafting, from the ground; if not enclosed and liable to be injured by cattle, cut it six or seven feet from the ground and put in three or four scions (according to the

size of the stock,) keep the limbs trimmed off below except a few small ones, to keep up the circulation of the sap for the first year, and in this way without expense and with little trouble, any quantity of quinces can be raised, from the third year after grafting onwards. A supply of apples and pears may also be procured in the same way, though the tops of these will soon be too heavy for the stock, but by shortening and trimming they can be preserved in bearing for years, and at all events will provide a temporary supply.

Another method I have resorted to procure pears and quinces, without waiting the slow growth of the quince and pear stock, is to graft one or two limbs in each of several thrifty bearing apple trees; in this way an abundant supply, for family use can be procured without materially interfering with the apple crop.

When the pear graft is set in an apple tree it should be placed in an upright position near the middle of the tree and in a large limb in the middle of the tree, because when heavy laden with fruit and leaves, it will be partially braced, in high wind, and on a large limb, because it grows much faster than the limb, and the longer the limb so much longer will it support the graft. I have in several years raised many bushels of beautiful pears, on my apple trees and also on my quince trees.

It is known I suppose to all your readers that grafting an apple or pear into a quince stock dwarfs it, and that it will bear fruit when four or five feet high, and seldom grows but little higher. I have several of my own grafting, and several from France now of bearing age; they are only about three feet in height.

From my French pears, apples, and apricots, I expect to procure *varieties*, but think we can find no better foreign fruit than we raise ourselves.

B. F. H. W.

### Green House Plants.

Where green house plants are kept in warm, dry rooms, they are apt to be infested with insects, such as plant lice, red spider, &c. A good remedy for plant lice, is to take a basin of warm soap suds and turn the ends of the branches on which they are found, into it. This will destroy them immediately. Wash the plants afterwards in clear water.—The red spider increases rapidly in a dry atmosphere; a moist atmosphere is death to them.

Hydrangeas, Oleanders, and plants of that class, may be kept safely in a dry cellar, with some light, where the mercury does not fall more than five or six degrees below the freezing point.

## MICHIGAN FARMER.

WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

Terms, \$1 in advance—five copies for \$4.

## Associate Editor.

We are happy in being able to make the announcement, that we have secured the services of J. C. Holmes, Esq., as Editor of the Horticultural Department of the Michigan Farmer. Mr. H. is already extensively known as one of the most distinguished horticulturists in the western country. For many years he has given his attention to the subject, and there is no branch of it with which he is not familiarly acquainted. So far, then, as this department is concerned, (which will occupy two pages in each number,) the Michigan Farmer may be expected to possess an interest not exceeded by any similar publication in the land. Upon all engaged in horticultural pursuits in the west, this department will present special claims to patronage. So very great is the difference in the quality of fruits, for instance, as cultivated in different localities, that it is totally unsafe to rely upon descriptions and recommendations of them, as grown in a distant State. Many varieties which are pronounced first rate in New England, and even in the State of New York, are far enough from sustaining the same character here. It can be readily seen, then, how very important it is, that the people of the west should know what particular varieties are best adapted to their locality, that they may not, after having been at much trouble and expense, and waited many years, be disappointed in the result.

We trust that our friends will redouble their efforts to extend the circulation of the Farmer, and sustain us in thus doing more than we have ever promised to do to elevate its character. Will they not? We wait for a response.

In the last number of the *Prairie Farmer*, published at Chicago, Ill., we find an editorial notice of each of the leading Agricultural papers of the country, in which their various merits and claims to consideration are summarily discussed. In the list of competitors, our humble sheet comes in for the following award:

*Michigan Farmer*.—Published and edited at Detroit and Niles, Michigan, by Warren Isham. There is no agricultural journal of our exchanges, whose columns show better ability to make a good paper than the

*Michigan Farmer*. It is edited with spirit and with a determination to produce a paper worthy of the farmers of the state. We regret to say that it has been heretofore miserably supported—the farmers there preferring to send off a thousand miles to get a paper costing five or six cents less. If this is kept up, we advise friend Isham to quit instantler.

Upon the above we have a remark or two to make. In the first place, we value it on two accounts, first, on account of the high character of the *Prairie Farmer*—it being confessedly one of the very best Agricultural papers in the land—and again we value it as an instance of magnanimous superiority to the petty prejudices which too often characterize neighboring journals from fear of competition. And again, such a notice in such a publication, is the more to be appreciated by us, inasmuch as we are yet in our infancy as an agricultural editor, being but one year old—havr't got our eye teeth cut yet.

In the next place, we should greatly prefer to be excused from publishing such things as the above, our sole object being to show the persons therein reprimanded, what is thought of them abroad.

We are happy, however, in being able to inform our friends of the *Prairie Farmer*, that we are fast rising above the difficulties we have had to encounter from this source.

## Our Agricultural Character, as a State.

How little do those who bestow their patronage upon agricultural papers published in other States, to the neglect of their own, reflect that they are so far doing what they can to sink the character of Michigan agriculture abroad? Is it not manifest, that the agricultural character of a State, will be estimated abroad, to a great extent, by the character of its agricultural paper? And is it not equally manifest, that the character of an agricultural paper must depend very much upon the patronage bestowed upon it? Is not this an indisputable truth? How certainly, then, do this class of persons among us—and there some of them left yet—pursue a course calculated to degrade themselves in the estimation of the people of other States. Surely, they should have more reflection, more self respect.

And what hinders our having as good an agricultural paper as the best in the land? What is necessary to make it so? Three things only; first, a suitable person to conduct it: secondly, that it should have ample patronage; and, thirdly, that there

should be a strong corps of intelligent, observing, practical cultivators of the soil, for correspondents. Of the first we have nothing to say. In reference to the second, who doubts, that if a paper had a general circulation within our own State only, its patronage would be ample? In reference to the third, the decision must of course depend upon the character of our farming population, for intelligence. And is it to be admitted, that our farmers are behind those of any other State in the Union, in point of intelligence? Not for a moment. What hinders us, then, from having one of the very best agricultural papers in the whole country? Why, nothing; absolutely nothing—unless it be lack of capacity in the Editor.

## Sheep Husbandry.

A. C. H. is right in the asseveration that the farmer will find his account, in stocking his farm with sheep; and the incidental advantage to the soil, is scarcely less a source of profit, than the fleeces which they yield. We say *incidental* advantage to the soil, because it is an advantage which is generally scarcely at all taken into the account. And yet, we apprehend, that it is an advantage which in itself, and apart from every other, would go far towards liquidating the entire outlay, both for the first cost, and subsequent keeping of a flock of sheep. The statement made by Governor Ransom in our last, shows clearly with what efficiency they may be employed to subdue the most untractable lands. And it is well understood, that in following up the old system of summer following, it is scarcely possible to keep land from becoming foul without sheeping it.

And then, there is the *enriching of the soil*. There is no surer way to keep land, not only from running down, but constantly improving, than to stock it well with sheep. All experience shows this. While one farm, which has not enjoyed the advantages of sheep husbandry, is seen to be constantly running down, and that, too, notwithstanding considerable effort is made, by means of various appliances, to keep it up; another by its side, which is well stocked with this animal, and without scarcely any other means, is as constantly improving. And we have known old, worn out lands to be entirely renovated by this means alone. A few years ago, an extensive farm in Stark county, Ohio, which had been run down by constant cropping, was sold for



four thousand dollars. The purchaser stocked it thoroughly with sheep, and so rapid and marked was the improvement, that in three or four years he sold it for \$16,000; and in the meantime the price of lands had not materially advanced. The difference was occasioned by the renovation of the land. When purchased, the land was nearly worthless for tillage, but when sold at such an advance, it had become one of the most productive wheat farms in all that section of country.

In the general estimate of the comparative profits of wool growing, the cost of transportation is to be taken into account. The cost of transporting to market most other kinds of produce amounts to a large percentage on their entire market value. Indeed some articles of produce would scarcely sell for enough in the city of New York to pay the cost of transportation thither, and there are none, belonging to the vegetable kingdom, the cost of whose transportation would be less than about thirty-three per cent. Whereas, the cost of the transportation of fine wool amounts to not more than three, and coarse perhaps six per cent. And this is no trifling consideration to those whose lot is cast in the far West.

The comparative profits of coarse and fine wools, have been variously estimated, some giving the preference to the former and some to the latter. It is undoubtedly true, that in the way matters have been managed in time past, coarse woolled sheep have been about as profitable as fine. But since the establishment of wool depots, a new era in the wool market has been ushered in. Formerly, the manufacturer, who wanted only one kind of wool, fine for instance, had to purchase with it a lot of coarse wool, which he did not want, and the consequence was, that he was unwilling to pay anything like the price, which would be a fair average between the fine and the coarse. And in this way, fine wool has been disposed of, at a price far below its real value. But the establishment of wool depots has rescued our fine wools from this disadvantage. In these depots, the different qualities of wool are separated into several different grades, and the purchaser can select the kind he wants, and he is willing to pay a fair price for it. A commission of one and a half per cent. embraces the expense of storing, assorting, and sale. Generally an advance of two-thirds on the estimated value of the wool is paid when it

is deposited, and the balance when the sale is made. So far, the system has worked admirably wherever fairly tested. It seems to be working an entire revolution in the wool market.

Especially will the effect of this new system be to elevate the price of fine wools, and in a corresponding degree, encourage their growth. Mr. Pierce, of Ceresco, informed us, that in accordance with the advice of a friend, he disposed of his wool this year at home at about thirty cents per pound, if our recollection serves, and remarked, that, had he sent it East, he would have obtained ten cents per pound, or one quarter, more for it. But he need not have been to that trouble. Had he sent it to a wool depot, he would have realized all, if not more, than he would, had he taken it to the East. Mr. P.'s wool is of a fine grade.

Hitherto, we have had no wool depot in Detroit that deserves the name. The gentleman who opened one last season, not being prepared to make advances, did but little business. Mr. Peters' depot at Buffalo, we learn, has done a somewhat extensive business, and given good satisfaction to those who committed to him the sale of their wool.

But manifestly advantageous, as this system is, and identified as it is with the true interests of the wool grower, it will have to work its way, like all other reforms, however beneficial, by slow degrees. A portion of our farming population will step forward and realize the benefits of it at once, and the rest of them will follow, one after another, as they get their eyes open to the advantages they have foregone.

We regard the establishment of wool depots as contributing twenty-five per cent to the profits of the wool grower, especially the grower of fine wool. And now the problem is solved as to the comparative profit of coarse and fine wools. With the advantages thus extended to wool growers, they will no longer be subjected to the necessity of disposing of their finer grades of wool at a sacrifice of twenty-five per cent, and hereafter this per centage may be considered as constituting about the difference in profit between fine and coarse wools. The superiority of the carcase, of the coarse woolled sheep, is but a trifling consideration, and does not begin to neutralize the difference in the value of the two qualities of wool. And so far as hardiness is concerned which has been made quite a consideration with some, there is very little to choose between coarse and fine woolled flocks, the merinoes

having proved to be abundantly hardy, with proper care, for our climate.

Of the fine woolled breeds, preference seems to be given to the merinoes over the Saxon. The Saxon yield the finest fleece, and the merinoes the heaviest—so much the heaviest, that the difference in price in favor of the Saxon, does not compensate for the difference in weight in favor of the merinoes. A cross of the two breeds is said to do exceedingly well. The best buck exhibited at the fair of the Kalamazoo county Agricultural Society last fall, was a cross of the two breeds, as we understood from Governor Ramsom, the property of Mr. Lovell, of Climax Prairie.

We trust that our farmers will spare no pains to elevate the character of their flocks. Indeed we are glad to learn, that the attention of many farmers in our state, is turned to this subject. Already there are some very fine flocks in Michigan. It was stated by Mr. Peters of the Buffalo wool depot, last year, that he received wool from six different states, and that the best lot came from Michigan. It was the produce of the flock of Mr. Gilkey, of Gull Prairie, Kalamazoo Co. And there are many other flocks in the state, of great excellence, some of which we have already mentioned.

And in no state in the Union do sheep do better than in our own. We used to think, in New England, that sheep, to do well, must be permitted to range upon elevated ground, such as hills and mountains. But this is a chimera. It is very true, that sheep always seek such situations, but it is not because there is any thing pertaining to them better adapted to their nature, than lower grounds, or even a dead level. It is because the sheep, being a defenceless creature, instinctively makes its way to the highest ground within the compass of its vision, that it may be in a position to look out for danger. Experience and observation have abundantly proved, that sheep do as well in a level as in a hilly country. But though level, a sheep pasture should not be wet. We have known some of our farmers to turn their flocks upon their marshes, and have heard them say, that they appeared to do as well there as any where. But they had not probably tested the matter sufficiently to be able to form a correct judgment. Upon the dry prairies of Illinois, sheep do exceeding well, but not so upon the wet prairies. An experiment was made two or three years since, by put-

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We trust that our friends will support their efforts to extend the circulation of the Michigan Farmer, and sustain us in this our most important work, than we have ever promised to devote its character. Will they wait for a response.

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having proved to be abundantly hardy, with proper care, for our climate.

Of the fine-wooled breeds, preference is given to the merinoes over the others, as they yield the finest fleece, and the heaviest—so much so that the difference in price in the market does not compensate for the weight in favor of the others. The loss of the two breeds is not very greatly well. The best buck of the fair of the Kalamazoo Agricultural Society last fall, was a fine-wooled breed, as we understood it to be, the property of Max Prairie.

Our farmers will spare no effort to improve the character of their flocks, and are glad to learn, that many farmers in our state, are interested in the subject. Already there are large flocks in Michigan. It is reported by Mr. Peters of the Buffalo, that he received wool from the best flock in Michigan. It was the property of Mr. Gilkey, of Gull Lake Co. And there are many more in the state, of great excellence, which we have already

seen in the Union do sheep raising on their own. We used to think that sheep, to do well, must be permitted to range upon elevated lands as hills and mountains. But it is very true, that in such situations, but it is not any thing pertaining to their nature, but adapted to their nature, and, or even a dead level. Sheep, being a defenceless animal, naturally makes its way to the top of the hill, within the compass of its range, and be in a position to look over the country. Experience and observation have proved, that sheep do as well in a hilly country, as in a level one. A sheep pasture should have known some of our best farmers, and their flocks upon their farms. We have heard them say, that sheep do as well there as any other place, and had not probably tested them, but naturally to be able to form a

Upon the dry prairies

expense of storing, assorting, and sale. It is really an advance of two-thirds on the value of the wool is paid when it

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## MICHIGAN FARMER.

WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

Terms, \$1 in advance—five copies for \$4.

## Associate Editor.

We are happy in being able to make the announcement, that we have secured the services of J. C. Holmes, Esq., as Editor of the Horticultural Department of the Michigan Farmer. Mr. H. is already extensively known as one of the most distinguished horticulturists in the western country. For many years he has given his attention to the subject, and there is no branch of it with which he is not familiarly acquainted. So far, then, as this department is concerned, (which will occupy two pages in each number,) the Michigan Farmer may be expected to possess an interest not exceeded by any similar publication in the land. Upon all engaged in horticultural pursuits in the west, this department will present special claims to patronage. So very great is the difference in the quality of fruits, for instance, as cultivated in different localities, that it is totally unsafe to rely upon descriptions and recommendations of them, as grown in a distant State. Many varieties which are pronounced first rate in New England, and even in the State of New York, are far enough from sustaining the same character here. It can be readily seen, then, how very important it is, that the people of the west should know what particular varieties are best adapted to their locality, that they may not, after having been at much trouble and expense, and waited many years, be disappointed in the result.

We trust that our friends will redouble their efforts to extend the circulation of the Farmer, and sustain us in thus doing more than we have ever promised to do to elevate its character. Will they not? We wait for a response.

In the last number of the Prairie Farmer, published at Chicago, Ill., we find an editorial notice of each of the leading Agricultural papers of the country, in which their various merits and claims to consideration are summarily discussed. In the list of competitors, our humble sheet comes in for the following award:

*Michigan Farmer.*—Published and edited at Detroit and Niles, Michigan, by Warren Isham. There is no agricultural journal of our exchanges, whose columns show better ability to make a good paper than the

Michigan Farmer. It is edited with spirit and with a determination to produce a paper worthy of the farmers of the state. We regret to say that it has been heretofore miserably supported—the farmers there preferring to send off a thousand miles to get a paper costing five or six cents less. If this is kept up, we advise friend Isham to quit instant.

Upon the above we have a remark or two to make. In the first place, we value it on two accounts, first, on account of the high character of the Prairie Farmer—it being confessedly one of the very best Agricultural papers in the land—and again we value it as an instance of magnanimous superiority to the petty prejudices which too often characterize neighboring journals from fear of competition. And again, such a notice in such a publication, is the more to be appreciated by us, inasmuch as we are yet in our infancy as an agricultural editor, being but one year old—havin't got our eye teeth cut yet.

In the next place, we should greatly prefer to be excused from publishing such things as the above, our sole object being to show the persons therein reprimanded, what is thought of them abroad.

We are happy, however, in being able to inform our friends of the Prairie Farmer, that we are fast rising above the difficulties we have had to encounter from this source.

## Our Agricultural Character, as a State.

How little do those who bestow their patronage upon agricultural papers published in other States, to the neglect of their own, reflect that they are so far doing what they can to sink the character of Michigan agriculture abroad? Is it not manifest, that the agricultural character of a State, will be estimated abroad, to a great extent, by the character of its agricultural paper? And is it not equally manifest, that the character of an agricultural paper must depend very much upon the patronage bestowed upon it? Is not this an indisputable truth? How certainly, then, do this class of persons among us—and there some of them left yet—pursue a course calculated to degrade themselves in the estimation of the people of other States. Surely, they should have more reflection, more self respect.

And what hinders our having as good an agricultural paper as the best in the land? What is necessary to make it so? Three things only; first, a suitable person to conduct it: secondly, that it should have ample patronage; and, thirdly, that there

should be a strong corps of intelligent, observing, practical cultivators of the soil, for correspondents. Of the first we have nothing to say. In reference to the second, who doubts, that if a paper had a general circulation within our own State only, its patronage would be ample? In reference to the third, the decision must of course depend upon the character of our farming population, for intelligence. And is it to be admitted, that our farmers are behind those of any other State in the Union, in point of intelligence? Not for a moment. What hinders us, then, from having one of the very best agricultural papers in the whole country? Why, nothing; absolutely nothing—unless it be lack of capacity in the Editor.

## Sheep Husbandry.

A. C. H. is right in the asseveration that the farmer will find his account, in stocking his farm with sheep; and the incidental advantage to the soil, is scarcely less a source of profit, than the fleeces which they yield. We say *incidental* advantage to the soil, because it is an advantage which is generally scarcely at all taken into the account. And yet, we apprehend, that it is an advantage which in itself, and apart from every other, would go far towards liquidating the entire outlay, both for the first cost, and subsequent keeping of a flock of sheep. The statement made by Governor Ransom in our last, shows clearly with what efficiency they may be employed to subdue the most untractable lands. And it is well understood, that in following up the old system of summer following, it is scarcely possible to keep land from becoming foul without sheeping it.

And then, there is the *enriching of the soil*. There is no surer way to keep land, not only from running down, but constantly improving, than to stock it well with sheep. All experience shows this. While one farm, which has not enjoyed the advantages of sheep husbandry, is seen to be constantly running down, and that, too, notwithstanding considerable effort is made, by means of various appliances, to keep it up; another by its side, which is well stocked with this animal, and without scarcely any other means, is as constantly improving. And we have known old, worn out lands to be entirely renovated by this means alone. A few years ago, an extensive farm in Stark county, Ohio, which had been run down by constant cropping, was sold for



four thousand dollars. The purchaser stocked it thoroughly with sheep, and so rapid and marked was the improvement, that in three or four years he sold it for \$16,000; and in the meantime the price of lands had not materially advanced. The difference was occasioned by the renovation of the land. When purchased, the land was nearly worthless for tillage, but when sold at such an advance, it had become one of the most productive wheat farms in all that section of country.

In the general estimate of the comparative profits of wool growing, the cost of transportation is to be taken into account. The cost of transporting to market most other kinds of produce amounts to a large percentage on their entire market value. Indeed some articles of produce would scarcely sell for enough in the city of New York to pay the cost of transportation thither, and there are none, belonging to the vegetable kingdom, the cost of whose transportation would be less than about thirty-three per cent. Whereas, the cost of the transportation of fine wool amounts to not more than three, and coarse perhaps six per cent. And this is no trifling consideration to those whose lot is cast in the far West.

The comparative profits of coarse and fine wools, have been variously estimated, some giving the preference to the former and some to the latter. It is undoubtedly true, that in the way matters have been managed in time past, coarse woolled sheep have been about as profitable as fine. But since the establishment of wool depots, a new era in the wool market has been ushered in. Formerly, the manufacturer, who wanted only one kind of wool, fine for instance, had to purchase with it a lot of coarse wool, which he did not want, and the consequence was, that he was unwilling to pay anything like the price, which would be a fair average between the fine and the coarse. And in this way, fine wool has been disposed of, at a price far below its real value. But the establishment of wool depots has rescued our fine wools from this disadvantage. In these depots, the different qualities of wool are separated into several different grades, and the purchaser can select the kind he wants, and he is willing to pay a fair price for it. A commission of one and a half per cent. embraces the expense of storing, assorting, and sale. Generally an advance of two-thirds on the estimated value of the wool is paid when it

is deposited, and the balance when the sale is made. So far, the system has worked admirably wherever fairly tested. It seems to be working an entire revolution in the wool market.

Especially will the effect of this new system be to elevate the price of fine wools, and in a corresponding degree, encourage their growth. Mr. Pierce, of Ceresco, informed us, that in accordance with the advice of a friend, he disposed of his wool this year at home at about thirty cents per pound, if our recollection serves, and remarked, that, had he sent it East, he would have obtained ten cents per pound, or one quarter, more for it. But he need not have been to that trouble. Had he sent it to a wool depot, he would have realized all, if not more, than he would, had he taken it to the East. Mr. P.'s wool is of a fine grade.

Hitherto, we have had no wool depot in Detroit that deserves the name. The gentleman who opened one last season, not being prepared to make advances, did but little business. Mr. Peters' depot at Buffalo, we learn, has done a somewhat extensive business, and given good satisfaction to those who committed to him the sale of their wool.

But manifestly advantageous, as this system is, and identified as it is with the true interests of the wool grower, it will have to work its way, like all other reforms, however beneficial, by slow degrees. A portion of our farming population will step forward and realize the benefits of it at once, and the rest of them will follow, one after another, as they get their eyes open to the advantages they have foregone.

We regard the establishment of wool depots as contributing twenty-five per cent to the profits of the wool grower, especially the grower of fine wool. And now the problem is solved as to the comparative profit of coarse and fine wools. With the advantages thus extended to wool growers, they will no longer be subjected to the necessity of disposing of their finer grades of wool at a sacrifice of twenty-five per cent, and hereafter this per centage may be considered as constituting about the difference in profit between fine and coarse wools. The superiority of the carcase, of the coarse woolled sheep, is but a trifling consideration, and does not begin to neutralize the difference in the value of the two qualities of wool. And so far as hardiness is concerned which has been made quite a consideration with some, there is very little to choose between coarse and fine woolled flocks, the merinoes

having proved to be abundantly hardy, with proper care, for our climate.

Of the fine woolled breeds, preference seems to be given to the merinoes over the saxon. The Saxon yield the finest fleece, and the merinoes the heaviest—so much the heaviest, that the difference in price in favor of the Saxon, does not compensate for the difference in weight in favor of the merinoes. A cross of the two breeds is said to do exceedingly well. The best buck exhibited at the fair of the Kalamazoo county Agricultural Society last fall, was a cross of the two breeds, as we understood from Governor Ramsom, the property of Mr. Lovell, of Climax Prairie.

We trust that our farmers will spare no pains to elevate the character of their flocks. Indeed we are glad to learn, that the attention of many farmers in our state, is turned to this subject. Already there are some very fine flocks in Michigan. It was stated by Mr. Peters of the Buffalo wool depot, last year, that he received wool from six different states, and that the best lot came from Michigan. It was the produce of the flock of Mr. Gilkey, of Gull Prairie, Kalamazoo Co. And there are many other flocks in the state, of great excellence, some of which we have already mentioned.

And in no state in the Union do sheep do better than in our own. We used to think, in New England, that sheep, to do well, must be permitted to range upon elevated ground, such as hills and mountains. But this is a chimera. It is very true, that sheep always seek such situations, but it is not because there is any thing pertaining to them better adapted to their nature, than lower grounds, or even a dead level. It is because the sheep, being a defenceless creature, instinctively makes its way to the highest ground within the compass of its vision, that it may be in a position to look out for danger. Experience and observation have abundantly proved, that sheep do as well in a level as in a hilly country. But though level, a sheep pasture should not be wet. We have known some of our farmers to turn their flocks upon their marshes, and have heard them say, that they appeared to do as well there as any where. But they had not probably tested the matter sufficiently to be able to form a correct judgment. Upon the dry prairies of Illinois, sheep do exceeding well, but not so upon the wet prairies. An experiment was made two or three years since, by put-

ting an immense flock of sheep upon the wet prairie, back of Chicago, and the consequence was, that they became diseased and died off by hundreds, and the attempt was abandoned.

#### Read the following Appeal :

Many of the readers of the Farmer, who have taken it from its commencement, will delight to greet in the author of the following appeal, its enterprising founder and first editor, Josiah Snow, Esq., who, though first, is by no means the least in the list of its conductors, as he would modestly seem to assume. Mr. Snow, after an absence of several years from the State, has returned to our city to take up his permanent abode among us, and we rejoice in being able to say to the readers of the Farmer, that its columns will be enriched, from time to time, by the contributions of his pen.

For the Michigan Farmer.

#### LEGISLATIVE AID TO AGRICULTURE.

MR. ISHAM:—I have been an attentive reader of the Farmer, ever since I left its management in 1841. Every year, it seems to have gained in interest, until it has now reached a proud eminence among the agricultural papers of the day. I congratulate you on its success, and trust under its improved appearance—enlarged form, and additional quantity of interesting matter, the farmers, for whose interest you have so industriously labored, will exert themselves for its more extensive circulation. Fifty copies at least should be received at every post office.

A few years back, when friend Skinner started his American Farmer at Baltimore, it was looked upon as visionary. Book farming was hooted at. The paper struggled for an existence. Soon after, Solomon Southwick started his Plough Boy at Albany. It died for want of support. New England,—even restive New England, then tried her hand to support one. The New England Farmer was issued. Some of her most enlightened agriculturalists filled its columns with their own experience with various crops. Now, Boston alone, has five papers devoted to the interest of farmers, and New England farming has kept pace almost with the vast improvements of the machinery of her manufacturers. Our whole country now appreciate the value of these weekly and monthly visitors, and they are now established in nearly every state. In fact, in these days of rapid improvement, it has become an indispensable Library to

their success. The reading of them is so general, that the arrival of the paper at the post office is as eagerly looked for, as a political one is by the politician.

It is to agricultural papers, that the Geological Surveys of the various states of the Union are indebted. It was they that originated the work—it was they, who insisted upon it—and it was they, who demanded it, at the hands of Legislators until they were compelled to order it. The states, that have already completed the work, have done a noble deed. Their reports are of vast interest to the farmer, by acquainting him with the nature of the various soils.

In the Geological Surveys, the states have only commenced, or rather laid the foundation for other agricultural improvements.—New York has taken another progressive step in the matter. She annually makes an appropriation to the State Society, to assist in her yearly fairs,—fairs that are renowned the country over, and alluded to abroad as the "Great Gala Days of the Farmer." It is only eight years, since the first was held. The whole state seems interested in them—every portion of it is always represented, and distinguished agriculturalists from all sections of the Union, are present. But New York does not content herself with this state fair appropriation only, she opens her Treasury to every county in the state, that will organize a society. The result has been, that societies exist in nearly every one; while the farmers are all endeavoring, by improved agriculture, to take the prizes. This stimulus to competition shows itself in all neighborhoods. It is an every day conversation, with the men, wives, daughters, and sons. Who doubts its great benefit in improving breeds, adopting new modes of cultivation, and resulting in the most profitable way of conducting the business?

In Michigan, by the last census, the fact is shewn, that  $6\frac{1}{2}$  persons are engaged in agriculture, against one in all other pursuits; while in New York, there is only 2 against 1. If the latter state is doing so much to advance agriculture, what ought our own, where we are thrively interested?

Here *over six-sevenths* are living by cultivating the soil, and not a *farthing* has the state ever done to stimulate ambition for excelling one another. The advancement of her greatest of all interests, has been totally neglected. The encouragement of a single article of her exports, has never

received hardly a notice by our Legislature. The creative power of all her wealth is forgotten, while a petition for public lands to assist in building a bridge in a village, is quickly responded to. This, no doubt, grows out of the fact, that the farmers have been culpably neglectful in petitioning for their rights, and insisting upon them.

It is to be hoped, as there are many farmers in the present Legislature, that the matter will not longer be overlooked. A bill of appropriation, similar to the one now in existence in New York, should pass. An increased production, enriches the farmers—that increases the wealth of the state, and the taxable property is enhanced. An appropriation of \$1000 a year for five years to a State Agricultural Society, and \$200 a year to any county society, that will raise a like amount, will find in operation, within two years, an effective organized society in each county. Who can calculate the good it will do? It will soon be returned to the state, by increased taxable property.

- 1st. Agriculture feeds all.
- 2d. Agriculture, directly or indirectly pays the burthens of all our taxes.
- 3d. Agriculture is the source of all our wealth.
- 4th. Agriculturalists are the guardians of our freedom.
- 5th. Agriculture is the parent of physical and moral health of the state.

6th. Agriculture is entitled to special patronage, as a matter of *equal justice*, as well as from considerations of sound policy.

Shall justice be done? Let our Legislature answer. J. SNOW.

Detroit, January, 1849.

#### The Hydraulic Ram, &c.

The following letter of Mr. Heydenberg of whose Hydraulic ram we gave some account in our last, furnishes some additional information. The cost of setting the machine, and laying down the pipe, is to be added to the seventy-five dollars, which says was the cost of the ram and pipe. It seems, that the distance from the spring to the house, is less than we judged it to be.

Kalamazoo, Dec. 27, 1848.

MR. ISHAM—Sir: I think the Hydraulic ram will be of great use in this section of the country. Mine has been in operation near three months, and I see no reason why it will not continue to operate as well for many years to come. I bring my water about 50 rods, and elevate it about 90 feet in that distance. We have about ten barrels per day now, and probably shall be at



increase it considerably when we get the machine and pipe properly placed. The whole cost of my machine and pipe was about seventy-five dollars, and I should not be deprived of it for many times that.

Yours in haste,

M. HEYDENBERK.

### Agricultural Education—A word to our Law-Makers.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Clemens, Jan. 1, 1849.

DEAR SIR:—I herewith enclose to you one dollar for the continuation of your useful paper.

There is one thing I hope you will not cease to urge upon the attention of the public, viz: the introduction into our common schools an enlarged system of instruction.—We are frittering away our thousands yearly for the want of energy on the part of the public, to demand of those entrusted with the law-making power, to introduce in our common schools, such a system of agricultural instruction, as would be of practical use to the mass of the rising generation. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, seem to be the length and breadth of district school instruction. But why should we not have higher branches taught to some extent, inasmuch as it would be the cheapest way to acquire them. Respectfully yours,

J. O. FERRIS.

### A Noble Example.

For the Michigan Farmer.

OLIVET, Eaton Co., Dec. 26th.

MR. EDITOR:—Enclosed, I forward you four dollars for five copies of your valuable paper the Michigan Farmer.

It may perhaps be interesting to you to learn that we formed a society in this place last evening, to be called the Olivet Agricultural Society. having for its object the promotion of Agriculture, Horticulture and the domestic and mechanic arts. After the meeting adjourned I proposed that we form a club and take the Michigan Farmer, which was readily assented to and the "ready" handed over at once, which I trust may serve to nerve you on in your worthy interprise. We anticipate seeing your paper much improved as it comes out in its new year's dress, and hope to be greatly benefited by its perusal. I have no doubt but that if many who now despise "book farming" would subscribe, pay for and become regular readers of your paper, they would receive in return some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold. I am rejoiced to see the farmers of

Michigan in some measure awaking to the importance of agricultural information. I do not certainly know, but I think ours is the first society of the kind formed in the county, but I hope the time is not far distant when town agricultural societies will be as common as town temperance societies. When this is the case, I imagine that there will be much less need of the latter.\*

In great haste, yours with regard.

J. DANFORTH, Sec'y.

\*Here follow the names of eight, instead of five subscribers, embracing those of the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary. This comes from the new county of Eaton, and from a township in which we had not a single subscriber before—a noble example truly for the farmers in the older settled parts of the state. And why should not Agricultural Societies, or Farmers' Clubs, be gotten up in every township in the state—and why should they not make it one of their first objects to extend a fostering regard to their own state Agricultural paper? In what way can they more effectually promote the great objects of such an organization, at so little inconvenience? [Ed.]

### Plaster, Sheep, &c.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—Surprising results have been produced by sowing plaster with the wheat in the fall. From the 20th of September to the 1st of October is the best time for sowing wheat. Sheep are the best stock to keep land rich, and if properly managed, no doubt, are more profitable than most other stock.

I have heard it confidently stated, that wool raised from the same grade of sheep, is nearly as fine again here as in New England. If this is a fact, it gives our farmers a decided advantage over those of New England in wool growing. Sheep may run upon meadows in the spring, if they are taken off as soon as frosts are over, and plaster sown immediately; otherwise they had better be kept off. Astonishing crops of clover have been raised in this way.—Many practice stocking with clover after the first crop of wheat. If the land is clear from stumps, roots, &c., so that the sod can be sufficiently covered, no doubt, it would do well.

A neighbor of mine says, "if a farmer loses his crop of wheat, it is his own fault." I can testify that this man has not lost a crop in nine years. He has engaged to subscribe for the *Farmer*, and I am in hopes

will be induced to give a statement of his practice in wheat growing, as well as of some other things.

A. C. H.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### Produce of Wheat.

We copy from the last number of Coleman's Report on European Agriculture, the calculation that is made in the following countries, as the average return for wheat sown:

Countries:	Year:	Increase for seed sown:
Sweden and Norway,	1838,	4-50 for one.
Denmark,	1827,	6 " "
Russia,	1839,	5 " "
Poland,	1839,	8 " "
England,	1830,	9 " "
Scotland,	1837,	8 " "
Ireland,	1836,	10 " "
Holland,	1828,	7-50 " "
Belgien,	1828,	11 " "
Bavaria,	1827,	7 to 8 " "
Prussia,	1830,	6 " "
Austria,	1831,	7-05 " "
Hungary,	1812,	4 " "
Switzerland,	1825,	6 " "
France,	1845,	6 " "
United States,	1846,	5 to 6 " "
Spain,	1828,	6 " "
Portugal,	1786,	10 " "
Tuscany,		10 " "
Bologna,		14 " "
Roman States,		8 " "
Naples,		8 " "
Malta,		25 " "

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.—We have received the first number of a paper with this title, from Boston—sixteen pages octavo, reading matter, semi-monthly, edited by S. W. Cole, late popular editor of the Boston Cultivator. The Farmer is just what we should expect it to be with such a man for its editor.

THE FARMER AND MECHANIC, N. YORK.—This continues to be a standard work of its kind, and well deserves the patronage, especially of mechanics, to whose interests it is mostly devoted,—sixteen pages, weekly, at two dollars a year.

COLE'S AMERICAN VETERINARIAN.—This is a *Treatise on the Diseases of Domestic Animals, with Directions for Training, Breeding, &c.*, by S. W. Cole, late editor of the Boston Cultivator, and now editor of the New England Farmer. This is a most admirable work of its kind, and ought to be in the hands of every farmer. It has had a very rapid sale, and is greatly esteemed. It is duodecimo, of nearly 300 pages, price 50 cents. For sale at McFarren's book store in this city.

One or two communications are necessarily laid over.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### The Principles of Plowing.

MR. ISHAM: I suppose there is not a single farm operation, nay, not all others combined, so important to the growth of crops as good plowing. A proper, practical understanding of this, is one great secret of the good farmer's success. It is a subject upon which there can be no theory. A few simple rules, well observed, are all that is necessary to direct the plowman in the proper performance of his labor. The following I consider necessary to enable one to perform the operation properly.

*First:* The furrow should be straight. The great object to be attained by plowing, is, to approximate as nearly as possible to spade husbandry. This can be accomplished much more effectually with straight than with crooked furrows; and by having several stakes placed in the line of the furrow, a straight one is easily made.

*Second:* The turning of the furrow and width of the furrow slice, I regard next in importance. It is agreed on all hands, that the furrow should be turned smoothly, and its position after turning, to depend altogether upon the nature of the soil. On light soils, the furrow should be laid flat, it being necessary to keep them as compact as possible, that the roots of plants may obtain a firm hold; while on heavy, clayey soils, it is necessary to place the furrow in a different position. The practice in England, and of the better farmers in this country, is to lap the furrows, or leave them at an angle of about 45 degrees. This will enable the harrow to operate more effectually on the surface, and leave under each furrow a small drain so that the surplus water may the more readily pass off; and it also leaves the soil more friable, and gives it a capacity for atmospheric and solar influence.

The width of the furrow slice, I never would have over ten inches; and my reasons for this are briefly these: 1st, it is as wide as can be completely turned, taking it as a general rule. 2d, It is more readily decomposed, which is often a matter of no trifling moment to the farmer. 3d, It approaches nearer to spade cultivation, which I consider the perfection of husbandry.

*Thirdly:* The depth of the furrow depends, like the position, on the nature of the soil. A thin soil, resting upon a heavy, tenacious subsoil, I would not turn up so deep as to bring the lifeless clay to the surface, having experienced some of the inju-

rious effects of having the inverted soil, covered with a coating of inactive clay. On light, sandy soils I would go as deep as the common plow, and my force would permit. The substratum usually contains organic matter, and other substances, readily appropriated to the use of plants; and loosening it to this depth prevents the injurious effects of drouth.

The above views are given to call the attention of farmers to this important subject. And, if possible, to obtain the views and experience of our better and longer experienced farmers, upon it.

If I could perform one single act that would induce even a small portion of some of our farmers to adopt a single improvement in agriculture; in plowing, for instance; I should think I had rendered an important service to my country.

CHAS. BETTS.

Burr Oak, St. Joseph County, Mich.

### Principles of Plowing.

For the Michigan Farmer.

PLYMOUTH, Dec. 18, 1848.

MR. ISHAM.—*Dear Sir:* Wishing you a happy new year, and being desirous for the proposed improvement of your useful paper, five of us have entered into a club, and herein transmit the pay in advance, for the Michigan Farmer one year. One moment's reflection to every candid mind, on the subject of *advance* pay to the printer, must be convincing of its importance. The business cannot be successfully carried on without means. The amounts of subscription are small, and scattered over a large surface, and the trouble of collection should not embarrass the mind of the editor and publisher. And these little sums might as well be paid in advance as at any other time, and then the printer's arrangements can be properly adjusted. The punctuality of the farmer is one of the cardinal principles of his success in his undertakings through life; without this he has no correct system for his operations.

Here permit me to suggest a few ideas on the cultivation of the earth, for consideration and exchange of views with your numerous subscribers. Experience has taught me that the old *soil-destroying* mode of cultivating the land should be discarded. Does it look rational, that by plowing the land, and leaving it in a loose state, (evaporation going on continually,) that the nitrous substances will not escape? Where is the farmer who desires the profit of manure, that will spread it over his fields and

occasionally loosen it up to the air during the season? The majestic pine, whose top penetrates the clouds, and the sturdy oak that defies the tempest, from what source have these giants of the forest drawn their nourishment? The earth around them has remained for centuries uncultivated, and in a compact state. The sun and the rain have imparted their genial influence, and the nitrous substances of the soil have not been lost by exposure to the atmosphere. This being the mode of spontaneous production, it serves to convey an important idea not to be lost sight of by the practical cultivator of the soil, and the old and ruinous system of turning up the land, to remain in a loose state, thence back again, often exposing it to the atmosphere during the heat of summer, while evaporation is strong, is about to pass away forever, and the sooner, the better. It is to be hoped that agricultural chemistry, *book farming*, will bury this old system, universally, in one common grave.

But what would you substitute—is it asked? I reply, plough but once for a crop, and that in the very best manner possible. In depth as the soil and locality requires. If the land be moist, it should be ridged to a reasonable width, then pass over it with a roller. In general, the depth of plowing may be varied from five to eight, and to eleven inches. The turf and vegetable substances are now prepared for decomposition; as the land is rolled down in a compact state, the nitrous substances will not escape. And to prevent grass and weeds from growing up, make use of *Ides' Wheel Cultivator*, if it can be obtained, gauging it so as not to disturb the turf or vegetable matter below. This cultivator is drawn by two horses, and will cultivate from six to eight acres per day. If you are preparing for wheat, twice cultivating will answer; Sow the grain from the fifteenth to the twenty-fifth of September, pass over the sowed field once more with the cultivator, and the work is done. For spring crops, this mode of once plowing is equally good. This method has particular reference to old subdued lands. The vegetable matter is to remain at the root of the grain, and as far as the heat penetrates the earth, the tendency of moisture is upward, by means of what is called by some writers, *capillary attraction*. This tendency upward from the decomposed matter, nourishes and sustains the crop at the root; and the next time the ground is plowed it furnishes a fertilizer for another crop.



this system of cultivation, one-third of the labor is dispensed with, the crop is better, and the soil continually improving in fertility. Add to this mode of cultivation, manure, and gypsum, or plaster, and the farmer will realize the benefits of his labor.

When a survey is taken and a history made of the manner in which too many of our cultivators of the soil, in more or less our elder-states, have, through a blind, unshaken zeal for gain, for generations wasted, exhausted their lands, and in turn, themselves, by not understanding the science of their profession, and consider how many thousands of acres have thus been thrown down and abandoned, it should be a strong admonition to the yeomanry of our young and beautiful state.

With the highest esteem, yours,

J. SHEARER.

#### Reply to Mr. Saunders' Inquiries.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MR. ISHAM:—I would suggest to Mr. Saunders, to divide his lands into fields of suitable size, say seven or eight; that he commence with a field that is sandy, and remove from his stable or with muck, or manure, if convenient; that he break it up in autumn, and plant in spring; and next spring break it up equally deep, and sow and stock with clover; sow good seed and plenty of it; also next season break up another field, and plant with corn; save all the manure you can, and if you can procure leached ashes, you will find them very beneficial to sandy land. Also put upon sand will pay well.—If your system is well commenced, you will have a field of clover to turn under in autumn, or even a second crop in August to sow winter wheat. If you have seven acres, you will have three of them under clover, and four in grass, and can pasture the cattle that are not necessary for hay.—As the soil is not all alike, you will have to use your judgment as to the time of keeping the land up, and also keeping it in sod. Generally two years is sufficient to subdue the soil. It should not be kept up over seven years, and ought not to be in grass more than three years. The system of rotation of crops is very simple, but much depends upon the manner in which the work is performed. If a farmer puts in his crop early and in season, he may expect ample returns; but if he slights it, it is a chance whether he gets pay for his labor. A man who has cultivated one of the largest fortunes that has ever been left in New England, and who carved out his own fortune,

was famous for having every thing done well that was performed for him. He once objected to a piece of work, that was being performed by a mechanic for him; the mechanic was angry and said, "I knew you, sir, when you was nothing but a drummer." "Yes, (was the reply,) but did I not drum well?"\* In haste yours, A. C. H.

\* Good.—Ed.

#### LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

*The Farmer's Daughter.*—There's a world of buxom beauty flourishing in the shades of the country. Farm-houses are dangerous places. As you are thinking only of sheep or of curds, you may be shot through by a pair of bright eyes, and melted away in a bewitching smile that you never dreamt of till the mischief was done. In towns and theatres, and thronged assemblies of the rich and titled fair, you are on your guard; you know what you are exposed to, and put on your breastplate, and pass through the most deadly onslaught of beauty safe and sound. But in those sylvan retreats, dreaming of nightingales, and hearing only the lowing of oxen, you are taken by surprise. Out steps a fair creature—crosses a glade—leaps a stile. You start—you stand lost in wonder and astonished admiration! You take out your tablets to write a sonnet on the return of the Nymphs and Dryads to earth, when up comes John Thompkins, and says, "It's only the farmer's daughter." What! have farmers such daughters now-a-days? Yes, I tell you they have such daughters. Those farm-houses are dangerous places. Let no man with a poetical imagination, which is only another name for a very tender heart, flatter himself with fancies of the calm delights of the country; with the serene idea of sitting with the farmer in his old-fashioned chimney corner, and hearing him talk of corn and mutton; of joining him in the pensive pleasure of a pipe and a jug of brown October; of listening to the gossip of the comfortable farmer's wife, of the parson and his family, of his sermons, and his pig; over a fragrant cup of young hyson, or rapt in the delicious luxuries of custards or whipped creams. In walks a fairy vision of wondrous witchery, and with a curtesey and a smile of winning and mysterious magic, takes her seat just opposite. It is the farmer's daughter, a living creature of eighteen; fair as the lily, fresh as May dew, rosy as the rose itself, graceful as the peacock perched on the pales there by the window, sweet as a posy of violets and clove gilliverts, modest as early morn, and amiable as your own imagination of Desdemona or Gertrude of Wyoming. You are lost. It's all over with you. I wouldn't give an empty filbert, or a frog-bitten strawberry, for your peace of mind, if that glittering creature, be not as pitiful as she is fair. And that comes of going into the country, out of the way of vanity and temptation, and fancying

farm-houses nice old-fashioned places of old-established contentment.—"The Hall and the Hamlet," by William Howitt.

*Wives of Working Men.*—Speaking of the middle ranks of life, a good writer observed: "There we behold a woman in all her glory; not a doll to carry silks and jewels; not a puppet to be dandled by fops, an idol of profane adoration, revered to-day, discarded to-morrow; admired, but not respected; desired, but not esteemed; ruling by passion, not affection; imparting her weakness, not her constancy, to the sex which she should exalt; the source and mirror of vanity. We see her, as a wife, partaking the cares and guiding the labors of her husband, and by her domestic diligence spreading cheerfulness all around her; for his sake sharing the decent refinements of the world without being fond of them; placing all her joy, all her happiness, in the merited approbation of the man she loves. As a mother, we find her the affectionate, the ardent instructress of the children she has tended from their infancy; training them up to thought and virtue, to meditation and benevolence; addressing them as rational beings, and preparing them to become men and women in their turn.

*The Wife.*—It needs no guilt to break a husband's heart; the absence of content the muttering of spleen; the untidy dress, and cheerless home; the forbidding scowl, and deserted hearth; these and other nameless neglects—without a crime among them have harrowed to the quick the core of many a man, and planted there beyond the reach of cure, the germ of dark despair. Oh! may Woman, before that long, sad sight arrives, dwell on the recollection of her youth, and cherishing the dear idea of that tuneful time, awake and keep alive the promises she then so kindly gave; and though she may be the injured one—the forgotten, not the forgetful wife—a happy allusion to that hour of peace and love—a kindly welcome to a comfortable home—a smile of love to banish hostile words—a kiss of peace to pardon all the past, and the hardest heart that ever locked itself within the breast of selfish man will soften to her charms, and bid her live as she had hoped, for years in matchless bliss—loved, loving and content—the soother of the sorrowing hour—the source of comfort and the spring of joy.

*Female Culture.*—The great entertainments of all ages are reading, conversation, and thought. If our existence after middle life is not enriched by these, it becomes meagre and dull, indeed. And these will prove sources of pleasure just in proportion to previous intellectual culture. How is that mind to have subject matter of pleasurable thought during its solitary hours, which has no knowledge of the treasures of literature and science, which has made no extensive acquaintance with the distant and the past? And what is conversation between those who know nothing? But

on the other hand, what delight is that mind able to receive and impart, which is able to discuss any topic that comes up, with accuracy, copiousness, eloquence and beauty. The woman who possesses this power can never fail to render herself agreeable and useful in any circle into which she may be thrown, and when she is so she cannot fail to be happy. A full mind, a large heart, and an eloquent tongue, are among the most precious of human things. The young forsake their sports and gather around, the old draw nigh to hear, and all involuntary bow down to the supremacy of mind. These endowments add brilliancy to youth and beauty, and when all other charms are departed, they make old age sacred, venerable, and beloved.

### YOUNG MEN'S DEPARTMENT.

*The Habit of Reading.*—Young men should always cultivate a habit of reading, for it may be to them, not only the means of information, but the principal source of many of the finest and highest enjoyments of life. They who make good books their constant companion, will never want good and faithful friends in their prosperous days, or their seasons of reverse. There can be no blank in the lives of these persons, who, from active love, hold daily fellowship with the wisest and best of the race. We think we could hardly be tempted to exchange our habit of reading for any other friend it may be our fortune to find on earth. And we are sure that any young man who will make this habit his friend, will ever esteem it among the wisest steps of his life; and so we counsel the young, from our own experience, among all other gettings in this world, to get the habit, the love of reading, —and always to have at hand a good book with which to fill up every leisure hour. In this way they may come at last to know, that the gems of life are found in its waste places.

*Friendship.*—In young minds there is commonly a strong propensity to particular intimacies and friendships. Youth, indeed, is the season when friendships are sometimes formed, which not only continue through succeeding life, but which glow to the last, with a tenderness unknown to the connexions begun in cooler years. The propensity, therefore, is not to be discouraged, though, at the time, it must be regulated with much circumspection and care.

Too many of the pretended friendships of youth are mere combinations in pleasure. They are often founded on capricious likings, suddenly contracted, and as suddenly dissolved. Sometimes they are the effect of interested complaisance and flattery on the one side, and of credulous fondness on the other. Such rash and dangerous connexions should be avoided, lest they afterwards load us with dishonor.

We should ever have it fixed in our memories, that by the character of those whom we choose for our friends, our own is likely

to be formed, and will certainly be judged of by the world. We ought, therefore, to be slow and cautious in contracting intimacy; but when a virtuous friendship is once established, we must ever consider it as a sacred engagement.—*Dr. Blair.*

### MECHANICS' DEPARTMENT.

#### That Air Churn.

Some time ago we gave a notice of a newly invented churn, called the "Atmospheric Churn." The principle of its action, in bringing butter, was the forcing a stream of atmospheric air through the cream during its agitation, while being churned. It was a patent, and it is said a right to make and vend it in a single state, has been sold for ten thousand dollars.

It seems, however, that the principle of forcing air through cream, in the process of butter making, is not new. If this be the fact, all that the patentees can hold, is their mode of forcing the air through, and not the principle of it.

Mr. Nathan N. Barlow, of Homer, N. Y., has published a communication in the last Boston Cultivator, on the subject of atmospheric churns, accompanied with a drawing of one, which he says he invented in 1836. He found, by experiment, that although the mode he adopted brought the butter rather quicker than the common mode, he could not collect the particles of butter that formed, together, into a mass, without much trouble, and that the dash churn still took precedence, and he applied the principle to that. This he says was a great "improvement; for it not only causes the cream to change sooner, by communicating a stronger ebullition than can be obtained from the simple dash churn, while those who have them in use, declare they obtain a larger proportion of butter, determined by actual weight.

I construct the handle of the common dash, hollow, with a ferule at the top, and insert in that ferule a valve that opens outward, (downward?) so that when the dash is raised, the air draws in, and when it descends, the valve closes; and thus you perceive that the air is drawn into the churn by the vacuum formed by raising the dash, and by the operation of churning there is a continual current of air passing through the cream in the churn."

We perceive, by the cut in the Cultivator, that there is a short tube inserted through the lid of the churn, through which the air escapes. Thus, by using Mr. Barlow's invention, you have an atmospheric churn, which combines all the advantages of the old dash churn, with the new atmospheric action. All that you need do is to have a hollow handle made, with a valve or *clapper* fixed in to its upper end. If you wish to be a little more systematic, you can have a thermometer set into the side in such a manner as to communicate with the cream, and by keeping the cream at a temperature of fifty-nine degrees, you will have all the requisites of a philosophical churn. Then,

with a lot of *good*, thrifty cows, to yield *good* rich cream, and a *good* hand to churn; and a *good* neat wife with *good* clean hands, to work it in a *good* thorough manner, you will have real *good* butter—no mistake.—*Maine Farmer.*

*Stone Cutting Machine.*—Mr. Charles Wilson, of Springfield, Mass., has patented an invention for cutting stone, which bears fair to work wonders in the process. One of the machines is now in operation in New Haven, Conn., where the incredulous man at any day view it dressing stone at the rate of a square foot in from one to ten minutes, and with two attendants only, at a limited amount of steam power doing the labor of more than a hundred men. The machine is said to be no mistake in the thing; and if so, it promises to make stone superabundant, brick, and revolutionize entirely our mode of building.

By an apparatus like that used in saw mills, the block of stone to be dressed is made to pass under the action of cutters which move back and forth over its face. From six to twelve circular cast steel plates, seven inches in diameter, and about as thick as a common circular saw of that size, are placed alternately with iron washers the thickness of an inch thick and less in diameter than the plates by one-fourth of an inch. These washers and plates being closely connected and firmly fastened together, form a solid cylinder or broad wheel, termed the cutter, presenting to any surface a rounded edge, numerous smooth steel edges, three-sixteenth of an inch apart and one-eighth of an inch deep. Two of these cutters being each supplied with a strong axle, are set to revolve in a stout head of iron below which they project. This head is made to pass briskly back and forth across the stone as it is slowly moved along underneath, the cutters taking only such motion as is given them by being rolled over the face of the stone—the same as the motion of a carriage wheel on a road—crushing the stone in their course quite to a powder, and with a power which no granite can withstand, taking away a very little at a time, but coming very often, and effecting doing the work. The cutters are set in a head at an inclination of about twenty degrees from a horizontal line, bringing the side of the cutting edge twenty degrees lower than the other side, and so as to take away the stone by a beveled edge. The head traverses with great rapidity taking, if needed, to the depth of one and a half inches and at the rate of a square foot less than one minute. In order to feed the machine without losing time in putting and removing the stone, a circular rail runs and two false ways (or beds) are contrived.

*Dog Power.*—A dog power has been invented, consisting of a wheel 11 feet in diameter, inside of which the dog is kept like a squirrel in his cage. This power is applied to a circular saw, a lathe, churn, pumping, and washing.



## GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

**Nothing of importance has yet been done in the Legislature.** Great excitement has prevailed among the members on account of the prevalence of brain fever at Lansing, and talk of an adjournment to Jackson or Detroit, has been had. The excitement appears to have been somewhat allayed by the report of a committee.

**There has been a row in the Ohio Legislature, in determining who is Governor, and it does not seem to be yet at an end.**

**No important business has been transacted in Congress.**

**Arrival of the Washington.**

NEW YORK, JAN. 8—P. M.

The steamer Washington left Bremen on the 20th ult. making the passage in 19 days. She brings 60 passengers. Advices from Havre to the 18th ult. say business continues to improve daily since the election of Louis Napoleon. Prices of staple articles were on the advance.

**FRANCE.**—Paris tranquil, and there was increase of confidence perceptible in the commercial classes of the metropolis and of the departments. Large *bona fide* purchases of the French funds have been made, which were still on the rise.

The new President was to be proclaimed at the Hotel de Ville on the 21st of December, and the new cabinet afterwards.

M. O. Dillon Barrett was to be at the head of the new government, and M. Lamartine is likely to be in nomination as Vice President of the Republic.

Gen. Cavaignac was likely to receive the elevation of Marshall of France.

The Pope still remains at Gueta, surrounded by diplomatists. He has determined to take refuge in France.

The Hungarians were burning down their own towns and villages, and destroying all means of communication, in order to cut off the invading Austrian army, by cold or starvation.

**ENGLAND.**—There is an increased accumulation of bullion in the Bank of England of nearly £15,000,000.

**AUSTRIA.**—The new Emperor was expected in Vienna on the 7th, to hold reviews and take oaths. He will return to Olmutz, and remove with the Diet to Vienna early in January.

The Hungarian campaign had been postponed until the troops had taken the oath of allegiance to the Emperor.

A skirmish was reported to have taken place at Bruch, and the Hungarians beaten. The Rothschilds had advanced one million florins for the use of the army.

**POLAND.**—A letter from Posen, dated December 5th, in the Cologne Gazette, says—Prussia, on condition that Russia is to establish the Kingdom of Poland, and the Duke of Lenetouburg placed as King, has ceded to Russia that part of the Grand Duchy of Posen which has not been incorporated into Germany. Formal acts of

cessions are to take place January 1st. The arrival of the Russian counsellor in state, at Kallisch, has reference to the execution of this important treaty.

**NORWALK YESTERDAY.**—SANDUSKY TODAY.—So we go. The telegraph this afternoon announces the suspension of the Bank of Sandusky to-day. Both these banks had been in bad repute for some time, and we apprehend, but few of their bills are held by our citizens.—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*, 4th.

Late news is received from California, via Mexico. More gold has been discovered. The supply is inexhaustible. \$100,000 have been gathered daily. There is much sickness at the diggings. Two barrels of brandy sold there for \$14,000.

**THE PILGRIMS AT PANAMA.**—A letter in this city, says the Albany Atlas, states that the thousands of adventurers who are now congregated on the Isthmus, waiting passage to San Francisco, are suffering greatly, and have already been compelled to kill their jackasses and mules for food, and pay \$100 a week for board. The next steam vessel does not leave Panama until the 15th of February.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8.

The Senate having been organized at the usual hour, several petitions and memorials were presented.

Mr. Hale presented several anti-slavery petitions. It was moved to receive and refer them to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

The Senate was deliberating the question of reception at the close of this dispatch.

A fire occurred this morning in the General Post Office, which destroyed several official papers.

A dispatch from New Orleans, January 6, says the cholera for a day or two past has been less destructive in its ravages: the number of deaths within the last 48 hours being only 77.—The number of deaths of Cholera and other causes was 131. Citizens were generally returning to their homes—and the late rains had subsided and had given place to pleasant weather.

The following account of the Pope's flight from Rome into the Neapolitan territory, is furnished by the Naples correspondent of the *Times*:

"Since the assassination of M. Rossi, the Pope remained a close prisoner in the Quirinal; and the Duke d'Harcourt, the French representative, was compelled to reside in the palace, for the purpose of affording the protection of his person and flag to the sovereign Pontiff. The business of the government went on in the Pope's name, but without his sanction, and so far did he carry his resolution not to be dictated to, that he refused even to receive the reports, according to invariable custom, of the officer of the guard. Such a state of things could not long continue, and the members of the diplomatic corps, as it is said, arranged a plan for the liberation of his Holiness, of which the immediate execution was intrusted to the Count d'Spaur,

the Minister of Bavaria. At an early hour, previously agreed to, the Pope retired to a private room for the purpose of apparently conferring with the gentleman I have just named, and there he disguised himself in the Bavarian livery. In a few minutes the carriage of the Minister was called, and the Count de Spaur followed by the Pope disguised as his servant, descended the grand staircase, entered the carriage, the Pope mounted on the box alongside the coachman. The artifice succeeded—no suspicion arose either in the Quirinal or the outward guards, and the good old man was enabled to breathe the air of liberty. Immediately on arrival at the residence of the Bavarian Minister another transposition was made.—The Pope took off the livery suit and dressed himself in the usual custom of the minister's chaplain, or *aumonier*, and M. de Spaur having already given notice of his intention of going to Naples, and receive passports from the Government, post horses were soon procured, the Count and his supposed chaplain took their places in the carriage, and then happily cleared the gates of Rome. It was some time before the mistake was discovered, as of course due care was used by those in the secret to say that the Pontiff was engaged in his devotion, and could not be disturbed. When the flight became known, the ministry was thunderstruck, and as I hear dragoons were dispatched to bring back the fugitive. But either these measures failed or the new Government hesitated in arresting the person of an ambassador, and the Count de Spaur with his revered charge crossed the frontier in safety, and arrived at Gaeta, a large town, the first in the Neapolitan territory, not far from Terracina. The Pope left the Quirinal on the evening of the 24th, and arrived at Gaeta on the night of the 25."

**Britain.**—The treaty making arrangements for the postage of letters transmitted by steamers, says the Union, has been received by the Europa. A letter from any part of England to any part of the United States, or *vice versa*, will cost 24 cents—prepayment or not, at the option of the sender. Newspapers will be sent in the steamers of either country at a charge not exceeding 2 cents, to be prepaid. Pamphlets, periodicals, &c., will be charged for each, not exceeding 2 ounces, one penny or two cents, over 2 and not exceeding 3 ounces, 6d., or 12 cents; over 3 and not exceeding 4 ounces, 8d., or 16 cents, and 4 cents for each additional ounce or fraction.

Last week the Circuit Court sat in this county and the case between the Suspension Bridge Companies and Charles Ellet, the engineer, was tried, and resulted in another verdict in favor of the companies. Mr. Ellet carried it up again to the Supreme Court on questions of law. A negotiation was set on foot, which resulted in a final settlement of the whole difficulty. Mr. Ellet has received \$7,000 for his services and expenses, and has left the State, so that we shall have no more of this quarrel.—*Ex.*

## DETROIT PRICE CURRENT.

Flour, bbl 3 56	\$3 75	Salt, \$1 31
Corn, bus.	37	Butter, 13a14
Oats,	22	Eggs, doz. 13
Rye,	37	Hides, lb. 3a61
Barley,	56	Wheat, bus. 75
Hogs, 100 lbs 2 50a3	00	Hams, lb. 6a7
Apples, bush 25a50	00	Onions, bu. 50a63
Potatoes,	50	Cranberries, 1 75
Hay, ton, 8 00a10 00	00	Buckwheat 100lbs. 1 50
Wool, lb. 14a28	00	Indian meal, " 1 00
Peas, bu, 75	00	Beef, do 2 00a2 50
Beans,	75a80	Lard, lb. retail, 7
Peef, bbl. 6 00a7 00	00	Honey, 10
Pork,	10 50a11 50	Apples, dried, 75
White fish, 6 00a6 50	50	Peaches, do 2 00
Trout,	5 50a6 50	Clover seed, bu. 4 50
Cod fish, lb. 5a53	00	Herd's grass do 1 00
Cheese,	6a8	Flax do 75
Wood, cord 2 a 2 25	00	Lime, " bbl 75

### GARRETT & GEIGER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,

Corner of Jefferson and Woodward Avenues,  
DETROIT.

Books and Pamphlets printed and bound to order; blanks of every description, cards, handbills, together with all other kinds of work in our line of business, will be performed with promptness and accuracy. Printing done in colored inks.

### DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES, CHEAP FOR CASH.

WE have constantly on hand one of the largest and best stocks of Goods in Detroit. Thankful for the very liberal patronage of our friends, we solicit its continuance, assuring them that we will make it for their interest to call and see us. We have constantly on hand a supply of good Groceries for family use, and as we sell for cash, it enables us to offer either Dry Goods or Groceries, at the lowest possible price. Our 4c. Tea is too well known to require further comment. We will only say, beware of a spurious article, that many will attempt to palm off.

HOLMES & BABCOCK,  
Woodward Avenue.  
Jan. 1.

### Michigan Book Store.

C. MORSE & SON, wholesale and retail dealers in BOOKS and STATIONERY, continue business at the old stand, on Jefferson Avenue, Detroit. They respectfully invite Country Merchants and Teachers, to their extensive stock of SCHOOL and CLASSICAL BOOKS, embracing every kind in use. Their assortment of Miscellaneous Books is very large, and in good bindings, from which a better selection can be made for town-ship and family libraries, than at any other establishment.

They also keep on hand, all kinds of English and American STATIONERY; fine Foolscap and Letter Paper; Printing Paper, (superior quality); Printing Ink, Wrapping Paper, &c. &c. Also, Medical and Law Books.  
Jan. 15, 1849

### To Country Merchants & Others.

THE Subscribers have established themselves in Detroit, for the purpose of furnishing this State with Crockery and Glass Ware, at equally as advantageous terms as can be obtained at any Eastern House.

Our stock of common, plain and fine printed ware is now complete, and is of the most modern shapes, patterns and colors, freshly imported and expressly adapted to this market, and will be carefully packed at New York and Boston packing prices. Also an extensive stock of Church, Parlor, Band and Office Lamps, Chandeliers, Girandoles, Globes, Chimeys, Wicks, Silver Plated and Britannia Ware, Tea Trays and Waiters, Fancy Goods, &c. &c. &c.  
Jan. 1, 1849 A. E. & S. J. MATHER & CO.  
Kearney's New Block, Jeff. above Woodward ave.

### WHOLESALE & RETAIL.

ALEX. M'FARREN, Bookseller and Stationer, 137 Jefferson Avenue, (Smart's Block,) Detroit, keeps constantly for sale a complete assortment of Miscellaneous, School and Classical Books; Letter and Cap paper, plain and ruled; Quills, Ink, Sealing wax, Cutlery, Wrapping paper, Printing paper of all sizes; and Book, News and Cannonier Ink of various kinds; Blank books, full and half bound, of every variety of ruling; Memorandum Books, &c. To Merchants, Teachers and others buying in quantities, a large discount made. Sabbath School and Bible Society Depository.  
Jan. 1.

### Ready Made Clothing.

THE Subscribers are now prepared to offer at their well known "Emporium," one of the largest and most complete assortments of Ready Made Clothing ever offered in this city. Being manufactured under their own immediate inspection, they can warrant it of the best material, workmanship and style. Their goods having been recently purchased at the unprecedented low prices at which goods are now selling in the New York and Boston markets, they are consequently enabled to offer all descriptions of garments most astonishingly low. Among their stock may be found: Broadcloth Cloaks; Cloth, Cassimere, Tweed and Blanket Overcoats; Cloth, Cassimere and Tweed Frock, Dress and Sack Coats. All descriptions, qualities, and styles of Cloth, Cassimere, Prince Albert Cord, Tweed and Sattinet Pantalons, Satin, Velvet, Cashmere, Silk and Cassimere Vests. Goodyear's India Rubber Goods, in all their varieties, together with a large stock of Shirts, Drawers, Stocks, Cravats, and Hosiery, of all descriptions. Persons in want of any description of Gentleman's wearing apparel, will find it to their advantage to call before making their purchases, as they are determined to sell both at Wholesale and Retail, at prices which cannot fail to give satisfaction. Call and satisfy yourselves, at the old store, corner of Jefferson and Woodward avenues  
Jan. 1. HALLOCK & RAYMOND.

### New Publishing House, AND WHOLESALE BOOK & STATIONERY STORE

THE undersigned begs to inform book buyers, book sellers, teachers and dealers in books, stationery, and paper hangings, borders, fireboard views and window paper, that they have this day opened an extensive Book, Stationery and Paper Hanging Establishment, which comprises a general assortment of books in the various departments of literature, and where a full stock of school and classical books, (in general use); LAW, MEDICAL and THEOLOGICAL WORKS, Miscellaneous Books and Paper Hangings, in great varieties, can be had at eastern prices.

Their facilities as publishers enable them to offer books on as reasonable terms as any of the eastern houses. Orders from the country respectfully solicited and promptly attended to. Citizens and the public generally are invited to call and examine our stock, as we feel confident inducements are offered to purchasers rarely met.

F. P. MARKHAM, 170, Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.

### Detroit Seed Store.

F. F. Parker and Brother offer for sale a full assortment of Garden, Field and Flower Seeds and Agricultural Implements, Ploughs, Corn Shellers, Seed Plants, Straw Cutters, &c. &c.  
Jan. 1 F. F. PARKER & BRO  
Agents, Genesee Seed Store.

### Crockery, China & Glassware.

FREDK WETMORE would respectfully invite the attention of all wishing to purchase Crockery, China, Glassware, Looking Glasses, Britannia Ware, Solar Lard Lamps, Store Lamps, Camp no Lamps, Girandoles, Silver plated Ware, Teatray, Knives, Forks, Spoons, &c., to call and examine his prices and Stock, before purchasing. Having a very large and fine stock of all articles in his line, he is prepared to sell at very low prices, at the old Crockery Store "Eldred's Block," Jefferson Avenue, near Woodward.  
Detroit, Jan. 1, 1849.

THE Very best assortment of DRY GOODS, BONNETS & RIBBONS, Groceries, Paper Hangings and Window Shades may be found at Wholesale or Retail, at

JAMES A. HICKS',  
130 JEFFERSON AVENUE, DETROIT,

At prices that will defy competition. A general assortment of housekeeper's articles, consisting in part of Carpets, Feathers, Marseilles Quilts, Blankets, &c., always on hand. Tea and Coffee drinkers are particularly invited to examine his 4s Young Hyson and Gunpowder tea, and his Coffee and Sugar, for he feels confident they will pronounce these articles the best in the market for the price.

### LUTHER BEECHER'S,

(Next door to the Michigan State Bank.)

### CARPETS AND DRY GOODS.

THE Best assortment that can be found in the City of Detroit, consisting of: Super Imperial Brussels and Wilton carpets, 10s to 18s; splendid three ply Lawrence and Thompsonville carpets, 10s to 12s; super two ply ingrain carpets; new pattern carpets, 6s to 8s; good assortment all wool Auburn carpets, 4s 6d to 6s; beautiful union carpets, ingrain pattern, 2s to 4s. Venetian stair carpets, rugas, druggettes, &c., &c., cheap.

IN all, over 14,000 yards, and will be sold at a small advance from cost. Dry Goods and Dry Groceries I will sell either at Wholesale or Retail at lower prices than any other establishment in the city.

Wholesale and Carpet Rooms, Up Stairs.  
Jan. 1. LUTHER BEECHER

### TO THE PUBLIC.

I am back again from the East, and have up my old Sign, "New York Dye-House," Woodward Avenue, next to W. K. Coyle's store, and opposite the old Depot. I am fully prepared, as heretofore, to  
DYE SILK, WOOLLEN AND COTTON.  
Merino Shawls cleaned and dyed; Moreen Curtains, white Kid Gloves, Carpets, &c., &c. cleaned. Gentlemen's faded clothes cleaned and dyed in Eastern style, and Woollen Yarn dyed to any pattern.  
Detroit, Jan. 1, 1849.

H. A. YOUNG.

### Detroit Plaster Mill.

THE Undersigned have erected a Plaster Mill upon the wharf adjoining Wm. Brewster's storehouse, below and near the foot of Randolph street, which will be in full operation by the middle of January next. Having a large supply of stone plaster on hand, of two different kinds, Sandusky white, and Grand River, Canada, which is a superior article and well tested. We will be able to supply the farmer and mechanic with any quantity or quality he may want. We expect to keep a constant supply on hand, and to sell at such rates as will induce the purchaser to call, presuming that he will be glad to purchase fresh from the mill, using his own bags and boxes, and thus save not only the weight now lost in the barrel, but the cost of the barrel itself, which will be the difference made in the price, the saving to himself something like two dollars per ton. We shall also grind corn in the ear, and other coarse grain for feed.

DAVID FRENCH, Agent.

Detroit, January 1, 1849.

### Real Estate Agency. DETROIT MICHIGAN.

THE undersigned have unequalled facilities for the purchase and sale of Real Estate; the payment of Taxes; Reclaiming Lands sold for Taxes; the purchase of Lands at Tax Sales; the Examination of Titles; the Entry of State or Government Lands; the Examination and Platting of Lands; Leasing City and Village Property, and Collecting Bonds, Mortgages, and other evidences of debt; the purchase and sale of Michigan State Liabilities &c.

They have careful and trustworthy Agents at the principal places in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and in each of the organized Counties of this State, and have also Township Plats of nearly all the Towns of the State. They have for sale the following unimproved lands lying in the several counties of Michigan, as follows:

Allegan,	45,000	Lapeer,	28,000
Barry,	32,000	Lenawee,	3,500
Berrien,	15,000	Livingston,	6,000
Branch,	11,000	Macomb,	3,000
Cass,	2,300	Monroe,	8,500
Calhoun,	15,000	Oakland,	6,000
Clinton,	24,000	Ottawa,	12,000
Eaton,	12,000	Shiawassee,	8,000
Genessee,	15,000	Saginaw,	18,000
Hillsdale,	10,000	St. Clair,	22,000
Ingham,	9,000	St. Joseph,	4,000
Ionia,	35,000	Van Buren,	14,000
Jackson,	5,000	Washtenaw,	4,500
Kent,	22,000	Wayne,	12,000
Kalamazoo,	12,000		

The above lands embrace every variety of soil, timber, surface, location, &c. They were mostly entered at an early day and selected by practical agriculturists. Among them are large tracts of splendid pine land.

CITY AND VILLAGE PROPERTY. Consisting of brick and wood stores, dwelling houses and lots, and vacant lots in the cities of Detroit and Monroe, and in the village of Ann Arbor, Jackson, Marshall, Kalamazoo, &c., also improved farms in almost every county in the state. All of the foregoing property will be sold at reasonable prices and on easy terms. Titles warranted, and taxes all paid to date of sale.  
Jan. 1 MACY & DRIGGS.

DYING & SCOURING.—The subscriber, having opened a dying establishment North side of Jefferson Avenue, (corner of Jefferson Avenue and Shelby Street,) nearly opposite the Michigan Exchange, is prepared to execute orders of every description in his line of business, and in a style which has never been surpassed in the Western country. Shawls, Scarfs, Merinoes, China crapes, and every species of foreign fabric, dyed and finished in the best style. Moreens and Damask curtains, dyed and watered. Gentlemen's wearing apparel scoured, and the colors renovated or dyed, without taking the garment apart.  
M. CHAPPELL

DETROIT, Oct. 7, 1848.

TERMS.—The MICHIGAN FARMER is published twice a month, by WARREN ISHAM, at one dollar a year in advance; after three months, \$1.25; after six months, \$1.50; after nine months, \$1.75. No subscription taken for less than one year, nor discontinued till all arrears are paid. To clubs, five copies for four dollars.  
Office on King's corner, third story.